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LOVELY RITA ORA

JAY-Z'S PROTEGÉ ADMIRES CONFIDENT WOMEN, SAYS J. LO IS HER SKIN IDOL AND LISTENS TO HER MOM'S ADVICE ON BEAUTY — SOMETIMES PAGE 37

OTTAWA metro

Thursday, December 13, 2012

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CAN'T TOUCH THIS

PAGE 9

Belieb it or not: Justin Bieber was the target of a grisly murder plot concocted by an inmate in New Mexico, state police said yesterday. A paisley tie was allegedly to be used to strangle the teen mega star, while Durasharp-brand hand clippers would castrate him, according to an affidavit for an arrest from New Mexico State Police. Each testicle would have reportedly made the alleged hitmen $2,500 richer. MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Mother wants justice for her slain son

Suspect. OPP arrest Ottawa man in Fouad Nayel homicide, police expect to lay murder charge

JOE LOFARO
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Nicole Nayel, whose son Fouad was found dead in a wooded area in Calabogie, had one word to say as she learned Wednesday police had finally arrested a suspect.

"Hallelujah," cried Nicole Nayel over the phone. "At least my Christmas now, you know — I'll never get my son back, but I want whoever did this, from Day 1 I say, to pay the price big time. I'm going to make sure that happens."

The OPP said they arrested a 29-year-old Ottawa man Wednesday morning. He will face a judge Thursday on a murder charge, police said.

Police are withholding the suspect's name until he appears in court, but Nayel thinks she knows who it might be.

"We have suspicions and I want to know if that's the person. Since Day 1 we suspected people and I want to see if that's them," said Nayel.

Day 1 was June 17 — Father's Day. Fouad, 28, was supposed to return home from a day trip to Petawawa and be home by dinner time for Chinese food, which was a family tradition.

He never returned. His decomposed body was found Nov. 11 in a forest in Calabogie, which sparked the homicide investigation.

After burying their son Dec. 1 at a cemetery in south Ottawa, Nicole said her family went to a Chinese restaurant and ate the meal they were supposed to have with their son the night he disappeared.

Nayel is not sure if the person who got charged is the person who killed her son. But, she does know she wants whoever is responsible to face justice.

"He didn't just kill my son," she said, "he killed us all."

Flights of fancy

Airlines are stepping up their mixology skills with drinks like Grandma's Coffee and Sky Breeze PAGE 25

Across the Universe

Distant galaxy still takes title of world's oldest PAGE 20

Google me this: What was the top search of 2012?

Nope, not Gangnam Style, but you're close. Find out, PAGE 20

It'll be a hard anniversary to forget: 12-12-12

Date believed to be the perfect combination of yin and yang for many couples PAGE 26

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Transit.
Fare system on track for $700M

If and when the new Presto system is finally put in place at OC Transpo, commuters will have one of the most expensive fare-card systems in the world.

That's according to a new report from the provincial auditor general indicating the overall price of Presto and Presto Next Generation has crept up to $700 million.

Auditor general Jim McCarter's office found the cost of the system has ballooned to $700 million from the $250-million, 10-year agreement between the province and the supplier.

"As of March 31, 2012, about $360 million of this amount had been spent on system-development costs, including about $40 million in internal charges incurred by the Presto office at Metrolinx, which has a staff of about 60," the report, released in Toronto Wednesday, reads.

Data on the system's reliability is also missing.

Coun. Diane Deans, who chairs Ottawa's transit commission, said taxpayers are protected from the overall provincial cost for Presto.

"That's really the big-picture provincial Metrolinx Presto system that they're talking about, and I haven't been privy to those conversations for how much they paid for that on that level," said Deans.

Presto's full rollout was delayed again in November, with Metrolinx paying the city an additional $3 million to compensate for the headache.

Metrolinx will distribute an additional 10,000 cards in Ottawa this January. Based on that trial run, OC Transpo manager John Manconi will make a recommendation to council in April on whether or not to continue with the program. If council pulls the plug, Metrolinx will return all money spent on the $81.1-million project. ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

A controversial storefront display has been covered up after complaints from a local resident. ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

Sex-shop Barbies made to cover up

Wicked Wanda's.
Store surprised by reaction to window display featuring dolls whipping each other

ALEX BOUTILIER
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A sex shop on Bank Street has partially obscured a display featuring dolls whipping each other after complaints from one local resident.

Wicked Wanda's staff covered the window of the storefront so it is not visible to passing children, according to spokeswoman Julia Winston. Anybody still interested in viewing the scene, which features Barbie- and Ken-like dolls engaged in BDSM (bondage, domination, sadomasochism), can simply peek over the covering.

Winston said the store was surprised by the attention paid to the display.

"There's nothing sexually explicit happening in the display," said Winston.

"We never expected that the display would attract that type of attention. And all of this has been blown ridiculously out of proportion."

Shannon Lee Mannion, who took her complaints about the display to the media, argued the store's display went too far. Mannion, who lives in the area, called the display "pornographic."

Winston said the store does not agree with Mannion's position, nor do they think there's anything wrong with the display.

"We completely disagree with having to change the display at all — we've done it out of respect for the people who have made complaints about the display," said Winston.

"We do want to try to fit in with our community.... It's our partial compromise."

Winston pointed out a certain irony in the fact that Mannion's complaint ensured a greater number of people actually saw the display through media reports.

Quoted

"Really, this has been Ms. Mannion who has blown the entire thing out of proportion and made it so that ... every newspaper in the city now features all of those pictures from the window, and children can see them all day, every day in the newspaper."

Julia Winston, spokesperson for Wicked Wanda's

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Archeological surprises could cost city in LRT excavation

Gamble. Watson says the majority of risk still rests with proponent

Should workers discover an ancient burial site or dinosaur bones in the bedrock below Queen Street during LRT tunneling, Ottawa's taxpayers would be on the hook.

According to the legal arrangement between the municipality and the Rideau Transit Group, the consortium selected to build the city's $2.13-billion light-rail system, the city is responsible for any archeological surprises encountered while digging the downtown tunnel.

That includes the discovery of fossils, artifacts, human remains, burial sites or environmental contamination.

In the perhaps more likely event of city-caused delays to the widening of Highway 417 or any "latent defect" in the project, the city would also be held responsible.

Save the date

- Council will have its final vote on the $2.13-billion light-rail deal on Dec. 19.

But Mayor Jim Watson reiterated his statement that the Rideau Transit Group will assume the lion's share of the risk associated with the massive project.

"When you're digging under rock, primarily bedrock, you're not going to get many archeological finds," Watson said Wednesday.

The city's rail chief, John Jensen, told councillors that staff had done extensive archeological and environmental surveys already, calling the likelihood of exposure for the city "slim."

Councillors were treated to a full day of presentations and public delegations on the project before agreeing to put the matter to a vote next Wednesday.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

An artist's rendering of the future Rideau LRT station. Should any archeological surprises pop up during the LRT tunnelling, the city's taxpayers would be on the hook. CONTRIBUTED

Farmer's market set to open on Sparks Street

A farmers' market is in the works to launch on Sparks Street this spring, officials said on Wednesday as they planned other events to revitalize the pedestrian mall. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

A new farmers' market will open on Sparks Street in the spring, said the street's business improvement association on Wednesday as they prepared for a New Year's Eve party that will kick off revitalization of the pedestrian mall in 2013.

"We're talking about a May launch," said Les Gagne, executive director of the Sparks Street Business Improvement Area ahead of the group's annual general meeting. "We've been working with the Fallowfield Tree Farm, who have reached out to six or seven suppliers. They will work with us to find the vendors for this spring."

Quoted

"There has been genuine support and passion to turn Sparks Street around."

Les Gagne, executive director of the Sparks Street Business Improvement Area

Gagne said that the public's response to the idea has been phenomenal after it was floated by the BIA last summer.

"There has been genuine support and passion to turn Sparks Street around," he said. "It has lost its shine, and I think there's interest to see it come back to the way it was."

Corn, pumpkins, strawberries, tomatoes, carrots and cucumbers will all be part of the mix at the market, said Kenny Stuyt, owner of the Fallowfield Tree Farm. "There are a lot of people who walk there that don't get down to the ByWard market.

"They could walk and get their lunch and pick up things for dinner."

A host of other plans will also help to bring more people to the businesses on the street, said Gagne, including a free Times Square-style party planned for New Year's Eve. Juno award-winning rock band Arkells, who won Group of the Year in 2012, will headline the event alongside several local artists.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

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Parents, passersby show support for teachers during one-day strike

Elementary students' day off. Secondary-school teachers may also stage walkouts

GRAHAM LANKTREE
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Supportive Ottawans handed Timbits, homemade cookies and a $50 Starbucks gift card to striking teachers outside Hopewell Avenue Public School as a provincewide walkout hit the city Wednesday.

"We've had a lot of good support," said elementary teacher Christos Pantieras, as drivers honked their horns while passing the picket line outside their school on Bank Street in Old Ottawa South.

Teachers said they were not allowed to talk further and all questions should be directed to the union, but their picket signs said it all. "Broten casts spells of lies, lies, lies," said the sign held by Pantieras, referring to Ontario Minister of Education Laurel Broten. "Bill 115 should alarm everyone," said another.

The teachers were taking part in the one-day walkout rotating through Ontario during December in protest of Bill 115. The bill will impose a new contract on teachers if they aren't able to reach collective agreements by Dec. 31. It also gives the province the power to end strikes and impose a wage freeze on teachers in newly minted agreements for two years.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation announced Wednesday it's possible that teachers could withdraw from voluntary activities for two years in protest of the controversial anti-strike law.

"It's something that we're not ruling out, and it really is dependent upon how the current government or the next government — or the next premier — handles the situation around Bill 115," said Paul Elliott, the union's vice-president.

But McGuinty, who has now characterized the dispute as a "disagreement over pay," said he doesn't understand why elementary and high-school teachers are involving students by stopping voluntary activities and staging one-day strikes.

"It's one thing for teachers to withdraw their goodwill from us, but it's another thing to withdraw the goodwill from students," he said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elementary teachers Marie-Helene Perron, Layla Vieira and Christos Pantieras picket outside Hopewell Avenue Public School as they took part in a walkout to protest Bill 115. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Lisa Choi took her kids skating at the Rink of Dreams rather than to school Wednesday as teachers staged a one-day walkout. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Families muddle through one-day walkout

While teachers and provincial officials continued their dispute over contract terms, Ottawa families were left to deal with the fallout, including finding daycare and dabbing a few tears.

"My daughter was crying initially when I told her. She thought her teacher didn't want to teach anymore," said Lisa Choi of breaking the news to her young children, Amelia and Elliot.

Choi took her kids out to the Rink of Dreams in front of city hall for an early-morning skate Wednesday and said she would soon be joined by other parents looking for activities to do during the day. "So far a lot of my friends were able to get the day off or work something out," she said.

"I haven't spoken to any teachers who are enjoying the strike," Choi added. "They know they have to do it but they aren't excited about it."

Heidi Higgins, who owns the Silly Goose daycare in south Ottawa, said single parents are the ones hurt most by the job action.

"The single parents who have to go to work and can't take the day off will have a bit of an issue," she said. "A lot of the kids I look after just come after school. Their parents will have to pay me the full $40 rate for the day."

Still, Higgins added that many of the parents she has spoken to are supportive of teachers.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

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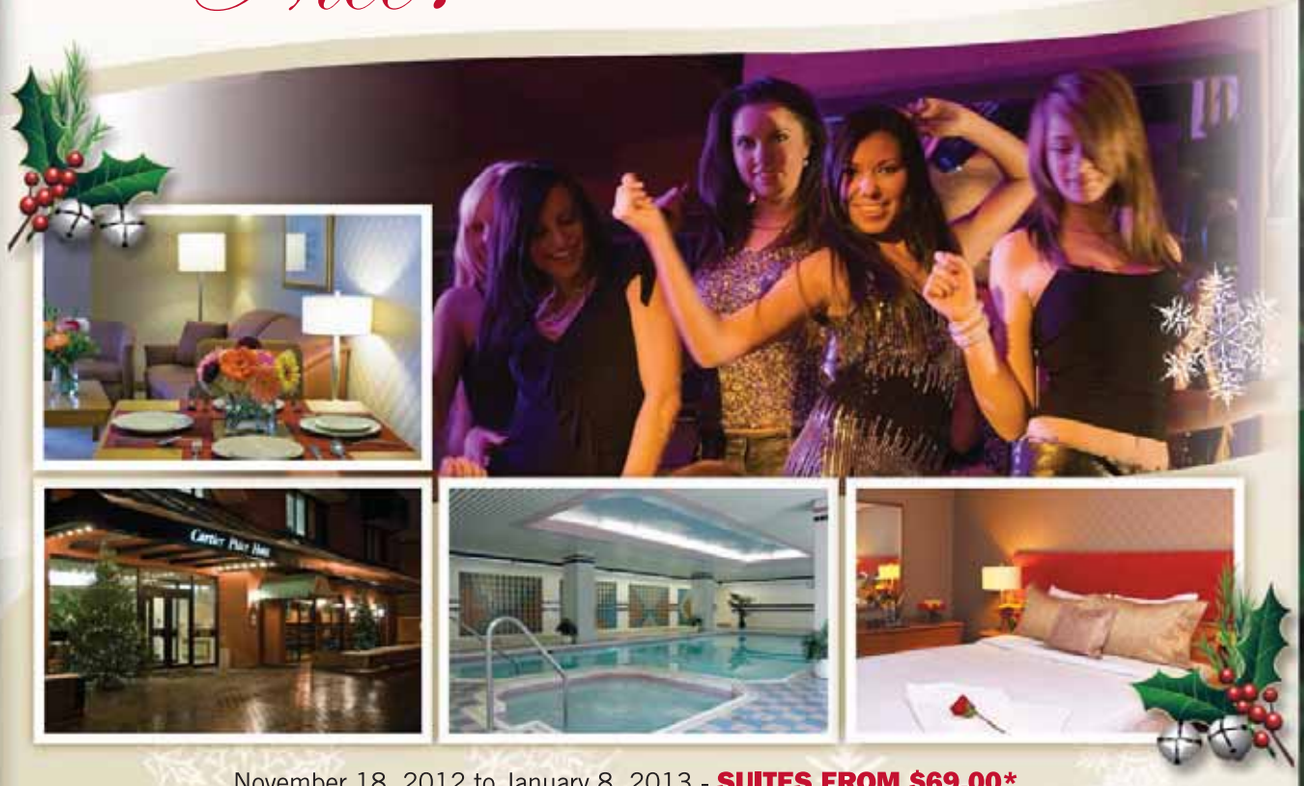

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UN war-crimes tribunal convicts Bosnian Serb officer of genocide

Srebrenica massacre. 'Right hand' of Ratko Mladic found guilty of having lead role in 1995 murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys

A UN war-crimes court convicted a former senior Bosnian Serb army commander Wednesday of genocide for playing a key role in Europe's worst massacre since World War II and sentenced him to life imprisonment, delivering another measure of justice to survivors still hunting for the remains of their husbands and sons.

In a majority ruling, a three-judge panel at the Yugoslav war-crimes tribunal said Gen. Zdravko Tolimir was the "right hand" of Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic, who is considered the chief architect of the murder of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys at the Srebrenica enclave in eastern Bosnia in July 1995.

"The accused not only had knowledge of genocidal intent of others but also possessed it himself," Presiding Judge Christoph Fluegge said. "He is therefore responsible for the crime of genocide."

Women who lost their menfolk in the massacre travelled to The Hague to watch the judgment and were pleased with the latest conviction.

"Finally, we witnessed a small bit of justice," said Munira Subasic, leader of a group called the Mothers of Srebrenica. "We are still alive to witness it and we are still searching for the bones of our sons."

Tolimir stood, crossed himself three times and removed his glasses but showed no emotion as Fluegge told him he had been convicted of genocide and would spend the rest of his life in prison.

Before the judgment was read, he told the court: "I wish for these proceedings to be concluded in accordance with God's will."

Tolimir, 64, is the latest Serb soldier to be convicted of genocide in the bloody climax of Bosnia's 1992-95 war that left around 100,000 dead.

He was found guilty of seven charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and the war crime of murder. He was acquitted of one count of deportation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small solace

"This is what we expected, and we feel better now. We hope the court will continue to conduct fair trials."

Srebrenica widow Rejha Avdic, 50, who lost her husband in the massacre

In this photo taken Tuesday during a gathering in the northern Bosnian town of Tuzla, 149 kilometres north of Sarajevo, survivors of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre hold photographs of male relatives who were killed. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1995

Bosnian Serb forces overran Srebrenica in 1995.

- **UN.** The presence of Dutch United Nations peacekeepers who were outgunned, outnumbered and who put up virtually no resistance did not deter the Bosnian Serbs. They later took over another UN-protected enclave in the nearby town of Zepa.
- **Massacre.** Women were bused away from the area before the Muslim men and boys were rounded up, taken to remote locations around the town and executed. Their bodies were then plowed into mass graves.
- **Impact.** The judges also reflected on the genocide's effect on those who survived it, noting "the extreme suffering of the approximately 30,000-35,000 women and children forcibly removed."

Egyptian Coptic blogger gets 3 years for blasphemy

A Cairo court on Wednesday convicted a Coptic Christian blogger who shared an anti-Islam film on social networking sites and sentenced him to three years in prison for blasphemy and contempt of religion.

The case of Alber Saber is one of several seen by rights advocates as a campaign led by Egypt's ultra-conservative Islamists to curb free expression. Many of those targeted in the campaign are Christians, who make up about 10 per cent of Egypt's population of 85 million.

Saber was arrested Sept. 13 after neighbours complained he had shared on Facebook the amateur film made in the United States that sparked protests across the Muslim world. His arrest came during a wave of public outrage over the film, produced by an Egyptian-American Copt.

At the time, an angry mob surrounded Saber's house, calling for his death and accusing him of heresy, atheism and of promoting the Innocence of Muslims — the short film that portrays the Prophet Mohammed as a fraud, womanizer and buffoon.

Saber's verdict comes as Egypt has been plunged into a political crisis over a draft constitution. Islamist supporters say the charter is a step toward stability while critics warn it will open the door to increased suppression of freedom in the name of religion.

In announcing the verdict, the court in Cairo said Saber can be released on a bail pending his appeal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free speech

"This is an outrageous verdict and sentence for a person whose only 'crime' was to post his opinions online."

Amnesty International's Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, condemning the verdict and demanding Saber be freed immediately and that all charges against him be dropped

Other convictions

- **Death sentences.** Last month, another Egyptian court convicted in absentia seven other Coptic Christians and a Florida-based pastor, sentencing them to death on charges linked to the Innocence of Muslims.

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Singer Justin Bieber at a Dec. 5 event in Philadelphia. A plot to murder and castrate the singer in November was halted by police. LISA LAKE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Alleged plot to castrate, kill Bieber thwarted

Bitter admirer?

Suspected mastermind, who has a Bieber tattoo on his leg, already in prison for murder of 15-year-old

New Mexico police believe they have unearthed a plot to kill and castrate Justin Bieber.

An affidavit for an arrest from New Mexico State Police described a grisly plan that was to be carried out in late November in New York City. Bieber played Madison Square Garden on Nov. 28 and 29.

The plan was hatched behind bars after inmate Dana Martin was transferred from a Florida prison to the Southern New Mexico Corrections Facility in April 2012, the affidavit said.

Martin allegedly recruited Mark Aaron Staake at the jail after the fellow inmate saw a tattoo of Bieber on his leg. The plan was to kill and castrate four people in two states, with Bieber as the main target.

The details were revealed on Nov. 20, when Martin asked to speak to police, telling them Staake and his nephew, Tanner Ruane, were on their way to Vermont to commit two murders.

Both men have been arrested. Staake was picked up by police in Vermont, while Ruane was arrested in New York state.

He described the method: Strangulation with a neck tie, followed by castration with Durasharp-brand garden clippers. The bounty on each testicle was set at $2,500 US.

Martin is serving consecutive life sentences for murders committed in Vermont in 2000. In that case, police told The Associated Press the strangulation murder of a 15-year-old girl was a "case of jealousy."

Throughout the police interview, Martin revealed that there would be two more targets, including the main one, identified as J.B. in the affidavit, who "has a measure of fame." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bieber plot

- **Manipulator.** The police affidavit describes Martin as "a very good manipulator," who convinced Staake that he had access to large sums of money and a multimillion-dollar home and property, where Staake and Ruane could hide out.
- **Connections.** He also told Staake that he had connections to Chinese gangs in New York, who had "sanctioned" the murders, according to the affidavit.

Dad who killed his kids to be freed

A father who stabbed his children to death will be a free man, less than four years later.

Guy Turcotte has been granted his release, with conditions, from a psychiatric institution. The cardiologist had been found not criminally responsible for killing his two children and, since last year's court verdict, he had been in Montreal's Pinel institute.

His case provoked a torrent of outrage in Quebec, where Turcotte is a household name.

He had admitted to stabbing his young children 46 times but said he didn't remember doing it, hadn't wanted to do it and had been experiencing blackouts on the night of the killings.

He said he was distraught over the breakup of his marriage. His wife had left him for a family friend who was her personal trainer.

Turcotte's release was unanimously approved today by a three-member panel. He will have to get annual mental-health checkups, continue his therapy, stay out of trouble and avoid all contact with his ex-wife. But his legal woes are not over yet: The Crown has filed to appeal the 2011 court verdict.

The Tories plan to introduce a bill in the House of Commons early next year that would make the safety of the public the paramount factor for review boards that determine an offender's release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminal Code plans

Several cases like Turcotte's, including the 2008 bus-beheading in Manitoba and the Schoenborn child-killings in B.C., have prompted a federal policy change. The Harper government plans to make it more difficult for mentally ill offenders found not criminally responsible to be released from custody.

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Intactivism. Germany clears up uncertainty around circumcision

German lawmakers approved a bill Wednesday that explicitly permits male-infant circumcision, ending months of uncertainty after a court ruling that the practice amounts to bodily harm led to an outcry from Jewish and Muslim groups.

Germany's government moved swiftly to draft a law following the Cologne regional court decision in June. The ruling didn't amount to a ban but raised fears of possible prosecutions.

Dieter Graumann, head of Germany's Central Council of Jews, expressed relief at the vote, which passed with 434 lawmakers in favour, 100 against and 46 abstaining.

Proponents of the law noted that failure to protect circumcision would have risked making Germany the only country in the world to ban the practice.

Orthodox Jews attend a meeting of Parliament in Berlin, Wednesday. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Critics of circumcision argue that the right of the child to bodily integrity trumps a parent's right to make a decision on his behalf.

A minority of lawmakers proposed that parents should have to wait until the boy can give informed consent, noting the procedure is irreversible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Espionage. British navy officer sentenced after MI5 sting operation

A Royal Navy petty officer who worked on nuclear submarines was sentenced to eight years in prison Wednesday for passing secrets to British agents impersonating Russian spies.

Edward Devenney, 30, was arrested in March after a sting operation headed by Britain's MI5. He pleaded guilty last month to breaching the Official Secrets Act.

"I have brought great shame to my family, loved ones and the submarine service," said Devenney, from Northern Ireland.

Lawyers said a series of personal blows preceded Devenney's betrayal. He had been accused but cleared of rape, was depressed and had been drinking heavily.

Prosecutor Mark Dennis also said Devenney had lost out on a promotion due to budget cuts and had been warned about excessive work absences.

Three days before Devenney met the supposed Russian agents in January — a meeting that came after he contacted the Russian Embassy — he was warned he would be discharged if his behaviour didn't improve by April.

Devenney, a 10-year navy veteran, had been a communications engineer on nuclear sub HMS Vigilant.

Et tu, Devenney?

"This was a classic story of betrayal."

Mari Reid, of the Crown Prosecution Service's counterterrorism unit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mothers and children leave school as a sign prohibiting the use of marijuana in the area is seen in Amsterdam. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amsterdam to ban pot at school

Explicit legislation: My anti-drug.
Schools found it hard to enforce their own rules without clear law

Amsterdam's mayor said Wednesday he would formally ban students from smoking marijuana at school, making the Dutch capital the first city in the Netherlands to do so.

Eberhard van der Laan's introduction of a law that in other countries either already exists or seems so obvious it wouldn't require a rule is the result of the Netherlands' unique drugs policy. Under the "tolerance" principle, marijuana is technically illegal, but police can't prosecute people for possession of small amounts.

That's the loophole that made possible Amsterdam's famed "coffee shops" — cafés where marijuana is sold openly. But it has also had the unwanted side effect that Dutch children are frequently exposed to the drug in public areas.

City spokeswoman Iris Reshef says schools have always forbidden pot but found it difficult to enforce the policy when students smoked on or near campus and challenged administrators to do anything about it.

After a change in national law, the city will now be able to declare as of Jan. 1 "no-toking zones" — areas like schools and playgrounds where weed-smoking is forbidden — under a public-nuisance ordinance. Police can then levy fines against students or anybody else who flouts the rules.

Extracurricular activities

"It's not really what you have in mind as an educator, that children would be turning up for class stoned."

Amsterdam city spokesperson Iris Reshef

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Tories 'hit the reset button': F-35 mess to be reviewed

Bombshell findings shock MPs. Costs could soar to $45.8 billion over 42 years, long-awaited KPMG report warns

The Harper government has "hit the reset button" in the F-35 mess.

A bombshell report has exposed the cascading multibillion-dollar cost of the stealth aircraft.

The long-awaited KPMG report warns the Lockheed Martin-built F-35s could cost Canada as much as $45.8 billion over 42 years.

The report says National Defence neglected to build a large enough financial cushion into the plan to replace Canada's aging fighter fleet.

And the paltry-by-comparison $9 billion the department set aside likely won't be enough to cover the planned purchase of 65 jets.

That F-35 headache just won't go away. Defence Minister Peter MacKay takes part in a Parliament Hill news conference on the controversial fighter jets on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Now the entire process will be reviewed, Public Works Minister Rona Ambrose said Wednesday.

"The next step is a full review of options," Ambrose told a news conference following the release of the report.

"We have hit the reset button and are taking the time to do a complete assessment of all available options."

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the government will ensure "that balance is maintained between the military needs and taxpayer interests.

"Ultimately, our government will get the best plane for the armed forces, for our pilots and for Canadian taxpayers."

The NDP's Opposition critics were unmoved, however, insisting the government was steadfastly refusing to admit the whole process has been fumbled.

"You can't move on, you can't move forward, until you've admitted that you've got a problem and that you've made mistakes," said Matthew Kellway, the party's procurement critic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Numbers game

65

The number of jets in the government's planned F-35 purchase. But the soaring costs may force a reduction to 55 planes.

Wire cash, please

Skype scam almost pays off

Police are warning people to be on guard against fraudsters using Skype.

Kingston police say a resident got a Skype video call from a man identifying himself as a doctor held prisoner in Syria.

The supposed doctor said if $2,500 was not transferred to a Western Union office in Lebanon, he would be beheaded. The victim wired funds — but later contacted police and stopped the transfer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Software icon

McAfee booted from Guatemala

Anti-virus software founder John McAfee arrived in Miami Wednesday after being deported from Guatemala, and was expected to be escorted by U.S. federal authorities after he cleared customs.

He had sneaked into Guatemala from Belize, where authorities want to question him in a homicide.

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North Korea flies high, UN brings it down to earth

Pyongyang jubilant over rocket. But Security Council warns of reprisals over successful launch

Rocket-happy North Korea got an angry rocket on Wednesday … from the United Nations Security Council.

It condemned the North Koreans' successful rocket launch and said it will urgently consider "an appropriate response."

The top UN body said the launch violates Security Council resolutions adopted after North Korea's nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Secretive North Korea also broke a ban on "any launch using ballistic missile technology," it complained.

The Security Council said that after the North's failed launch in April it demanded that Pyongyang halt any further launches using ballistic missile technology and expressed its determination to take action in the event of another launch.

The matter is urgent, the council said.

The successful rocket launch is widely seen as a test that takes North Korea one step closer to being capable of sending a nuclear-tipped warhead as far as California.

North Korea officials, however, say the latest rocket is meant to send a satellite into orbit to study crops and weather patterns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

The launch "constitutes a very dangerous challenge to … the security situation in the Korean peninsula and northeast Asia."
Kim Sook,
South Korea's UN ambassador

The flames of anger burn in South Korea over the North's rocket launch. In Seoul, protesters burn a mock rocket only to see police move in with fire extinguishers. South Koreans fear for the security of their country. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You are not alone – cat allergies are one of the most common forms of allergies in the United States and Europe. As you know, the symptoms can significantly reduce your quality of life. The sneezing, itchy and burning eyes and skin, and stuffy or runny nose can be unbearable. You may have even tried multiple different treatment options with no improvement.

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Jury sees gory scenes in trial of Que. filmmaker

Accusations. Remy Couture has been accused of corrupting morals through his work

Special-effects filmmaker Remy Couture.
GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The jury hearing the trial of a Quebec special-effects artist charged with corrupting morals has had a chance to see his handiwork.

The seven-woman, five-man jury watched in silence as hundreds of photos and a pair of videos that depict gruesome murders, torture, assaults and necrophilia with female victims were put on display.

Remy Couture is charged with corrupting morals through the distribution, possession and production of obscene materials in a case that explores the boundaries of artistic expression.

The jury is tasked with deciding if the material in question is obscene and dangerous and could actually incite people to act out what they see, as the Crown contends.

Couture argues his work has artistic value and the state's interference amounts to an infringement of his right to free expression.

The jury has asked that the court speed up the process of viewing the photos. The judge has approved the request. The photos were originally being shown for about 10 seconds each, but were later switched roughly every five.

The images appeared on a website Couture hosted, dubbed "Inner Depravity." The violent, sexually explicit, horror-inspired works were based on a serial-killer character Couture created and played.

His trial got underway Monday with jury selection and two weeks have been set aside to hear evidence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Benedict XVI begins tweeting

In this photo provided by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI pushes a button on a tablet at the Vatican on Wednesday. In perhaps the most drawn-out Twitter launch ever, the Pope's first tweet reads, "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart." Later in the day he was to respond to a few messages sent to him from around the world. The Pope has garnered more than one million followers in the eight languages of his account. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Basketball team beats opponent 107-2

An Indiana high school girls basketball team routed an opponent 107-2 this week, prompting an official with the state prep sports association to say he never wants to see anything so one-sided again.

Bloomington South coach Larry Winters told the Indianapolis Star there was no effort to embarrass Arlington or run up the score during Tuesday's game. He says he played all nine of his players and didn't stop shooting because "that would have been more embarrassing" to Arlington, whose only points came on a free throw in the second quarter and another in the third.

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Allegations against Savile 'unprecedented'

In this 1986 photo, Jimmy Savile, right, poses with a wax model at Madame Tussauds museum in London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

199 crimes suspected. Police publish update on sexual-abuse claims against BBC presenter

The late BBC entertainer Jimmy Savile is a suspect in 199 crimes recorded so far, including dozens of cases of rape, British police said Wednesday. They described the level of sexual-abuse allegations against Savile as "unprecedented in the U.K."

The accusations against Savile, who died last year at age 84, grew after five women said during a TV program broadcast in October that they'd been sexually abused by the presenter. The claims triggered a scandal that rocked the BBC, which has been accused of failing to report allegations against Savile while making shows praising him.

Police said they expect a report on Savile's activities based on the alleged victims' evidence, to be published early next year. On Wednesday, police published an update.

Most of those people who came forward were women who alleged sexual abuse when they were young, police said.

A broader investigation spurred by the claims has so far detained seven suspects for questioning. They included former pop star Gary Glitter and publicist Max Clifford. No criminal charges have been filed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The allegations

- 199 crimes have been recorded in 17 police jurisdictions.
- 31 rape allegations have been recorded.
- 450 people have come forward with information, mainly alleging sexual abuse.

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Argentina. Sex-slavery acquittals spur protest

The acquittal of 13 people accused of kidnapping a young mother and forcing her to work for years as a sex slave spread shock and outrage across Argentina on Wednesday, prompting street protests and calls by political leaders to impeach the three judges who delivered the verdict.

Many called the ruling a setback for Argentina's efforts to combat sex trafficking, which began largely as a result of Susana Trimarco's one-woman, decade-long quest to find her missing daughter, Maria de los Angeles "Marita" Veron. Her lawyers said the verdict shows that impunity still reigns, and said they would pursue appeals.

Trimarco's search exposed an underworld of organized-crime figures who operate brothels with protection from authorities across Argentina.

Security Minister Nilda Garre called the verdict "a tremendous slap in the face for the prospect of justice."

"It's not only a reversal for this particular case ... that made society feel deeply the drama of this kind of 21st-century slavery, covered up for decades by the customs of a network of machista culture," she said.

It also "renders invisible the suffering of the victims of human-trafficking networks and sexual exploitation, who gave such courageous testimony during the trial," Garre said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A demonstrator, wearing a T-shirt that reads "We are not your prostitutes," stands with a protest against the acquittal of 13 people accused in the disappearance of Marita Veron in Buenos Aires on Wednesday. VICTOR R. CAIVANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.C. borders

Three arrested on child-porn charges

Canadian border officials stopped three men with what was believed to be child pornography in separate incidents at air, sea and land B.C. border crossings. The first arrest was made Dec. 2, when guards discovered a laptop with illegal images, on a marine vessel. Dec. 5, a man was stopped at the airport and his laptop, phones and flash drives were seized. Later that day, a third man was arrested on a bus with suspected child-exploitation images on his laptop. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big busted

Woman arrested for cocaine-filled breast implants

Spanish authorities say they have arrested a Panamanian woman arriving at Barcelona airport with 1.38 kilograms of cocaine concealed in breast implants.

The Interior Ministry said that border police noticed fresh scars and blood-stained gauze on her chest as well as pale patches beneath her skin. The woman said she had recently had breast-implant surgery.

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New Mexico. Virgin Galactic's future at spaceport up in the air

The deal was sold to New Mexicans in classic Richard Branson fashion. If taxpayers would build the colourful British businessman a $209-million US futuristic spaceport, he would make New Mexico the launching point for a space-tourism business catering to the rich and famous.

Now, with Spaceport America nearly complete but still mostly empty, a Virgin Galactic official says the company will reassess its agreement if lawmakers don't pass liability-exemption laws for its suppliers, raising the possibility it could take its spacecraft elsewhere.

State officials acknowledge the company — which has yet to post a deposit for what is supposed to be a $1-million-a-year lease — could walk away from the quarter-billion-dollar project. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A celestial courtship

- Texas and Florida are developing their own spaceports and aggressively courting space businesses.
- Virgin Galactic has entered a deal with an investment group to build another spaceport in Abu Dhabi.

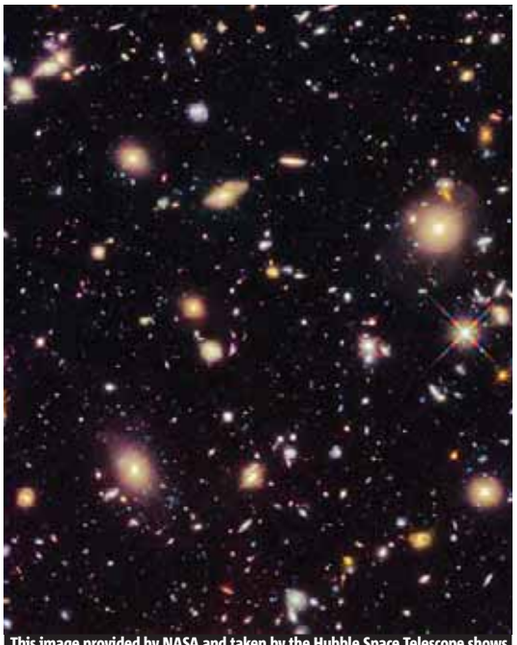
France

Notre Dame cathedral readies to ring in 2013

Dignitaries, tourists and Parisians gathered in the thousands Wednesday for a ceremony and Mass marking the beginning of the yearlong commemoration of Notre Dame Cathedral's 850th anniversary.

The 12th-century Gothic cathedral looming over the French capital will get a set of new bells in February, one of the highlights of a year's worth of planned events including seminars, concerts of sacred music. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distant galaxy retakes its title of oldest in universe



This image provided by NASA and taken by the Hubble Space Telescope shows previously unseen early galaxies, including the oldest one at 13.3 billion years old. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hubble's big find.
New photos reveal distant cluster of blue stars believed to be 13.3 billion years old

A galaxy once considered the oldest has reclaimed its title, scientists reported Wednesday.

Poring through Hubble Space Telescope photos, the team recalculated the galaxy's age and determined it is actually 13.3 billion years old — not a mere 13.2 billion.

The dim galaxy filled with blue stars was first noticed last year by a different group of researchers, who also used the workhorse telescope to make the previous age estimate. It reigned as the most ancient galaxy observed until last month when it was knocked off its perch by another distant galaxy.

Now it's back on top after the team used a longer exposure time to get a clearer view.

Besides refining the galaxy's age, they found half a dozen new early ones. Scientists are excited about the bounty of early galaxies, which should help refine theories about the formation of the first stars.

Astronomers think galaxies started appearing after the Big Bang, the explosion believed to have created the universe 13.7 billion years ago. Our Milky Way — one of hundreds of billions of galaxies — formed about 10 billion years ago.

Launched in 1990, Hubble has consistently peered back in time to reveal ancient and distant objects.

As far back as Hubble can see, it still can't capture the earliest galaxies. That job is left to its more powerful successor, the James Webb Telescope, to be launched in 2018. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We want to know our cosmic roots, how things got started and the origins of the galaxies."
Harvard University astrophysicist Avi Loeb reacts to new telescope images of space

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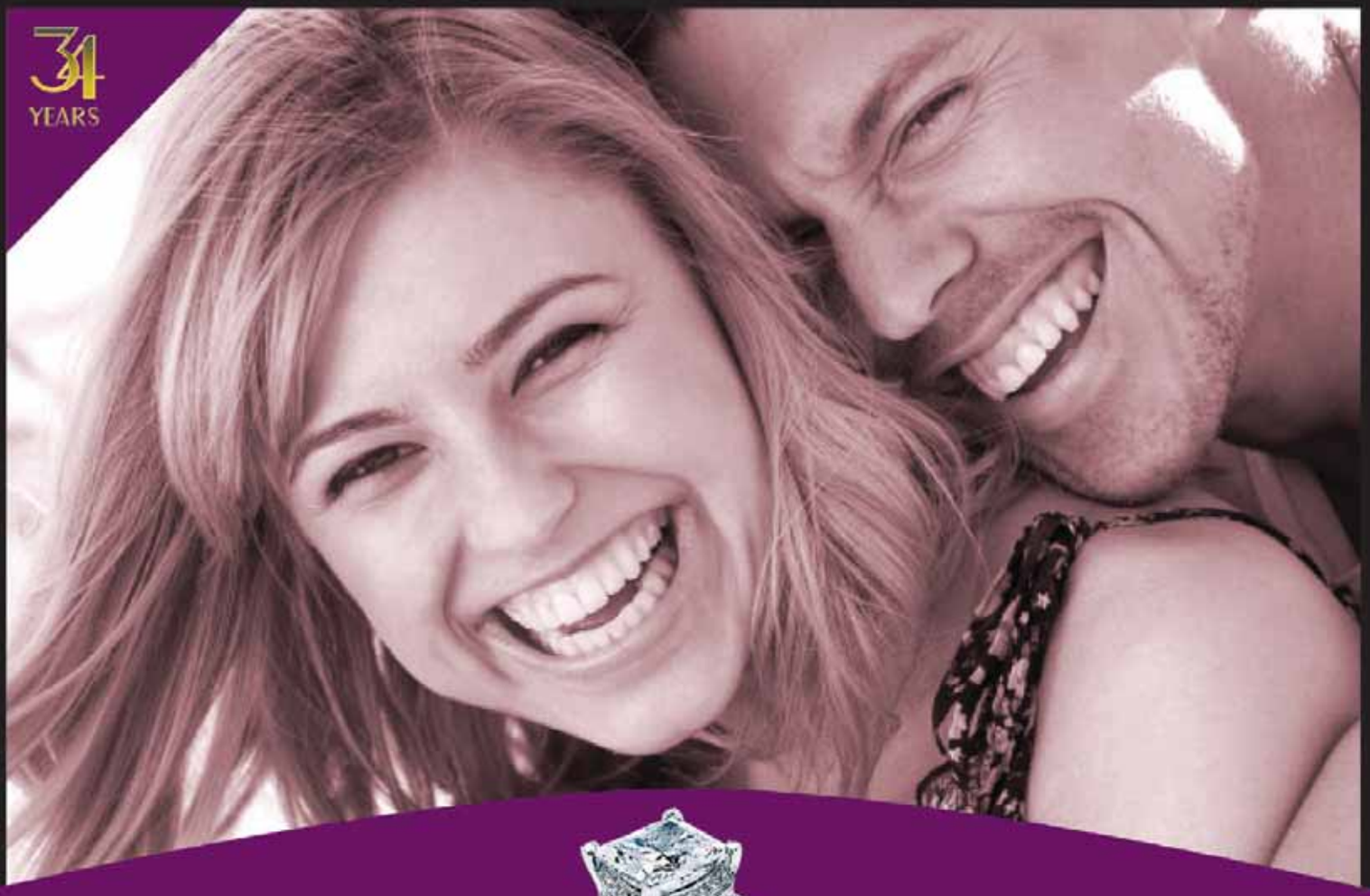
34 YEARS



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Three more fishermen found in Philipines

Low-flying search planes spotted three Filipino fishermen drifting at sea and flashing mirrors to signal for help, as authorities stepped up the search for 261 others missing more than a week after a typhoon killed hundreds in the southern Philippines.

Indonesia sent a ship to join the search for the fishermen, who may have been swept toward the Celebes Sea from the Pacific Ocean off southern Mindanao Island, said regional military spokesman Capt. Severino David.

A total of 35 fishermen have been rescued in the past three days, including three found Tuesday in a small boat drifting about 255 kilometres (158 miles) east of Davao Oriental province, where the typhoon made landfall Dec. 4, David said Wednesday.

Low-flying search planes spotted them and gave their locations to rescue ships. Although weak and dehydrated, some were still able to signal to the planes using mirrors, David said.

"The typhoon caught up with them, and they may have lost their way and ran out of fuel," he said.

The more than 300 tuna fishermen were about 220 kilometres (120 nautical miles) east of Davao Oriental province as early as October. Typhoon Bopha's top winds of 210 kilometres (131 miles) per hour apparently made it difficult for them to return to shore.

The storm killed at least 740 people, many as floods swept through mountainous southern towns of the archipelago. Nearly 900 people are missing, including the fishermen.

Rescuers recovered at least four bodies from the sea and continued to find remains buried under mud and rubble in the worst-hit farming province of Compostela Valley and in flood-ravaged coastal towns. Hundreds of thousands were left homeless. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PSY performs onstage during the Y100's Jingle Ball 2012 at the BB&T Center on December 8 in Miami. MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY IMAGES

'Gangnam Style' tops Google search list

Zeitgeist. Whitney Houston, Superstorm Sandy, iPad 3 and Kate Middleton round out year-end list of high-traffic searches

The world's attention wavered between the tragic and the silly in 2012, and along the way, millions of people searched the Web to find out about a royal princess, the latest iPad, and a record-breaking skydiver.

Whitney Houston was the "top trending" search of the year, according to Google Inc.'s year-end "zeitgeist" report. Google's 12th annual roundup is "an in-depth look at the spirit of the times as seen through the billions of searches on Google over the past year," the company said in a blog post Wednesday.

People around the globe searched en masse for news about Houston's accidental drowning in a bathtub just before she was to perform at a pre-Grammy Awards party in February.

Google defines topics as "trending" when they garner a high amount of traffic over a sustained period of time.

Korean rapper PSY's "Gangnam Style" music video trotted into second spot, a testament to his self-deprecating giddy-up dance move. The video is approaching a billion views on YouTube.

Superstorm Sandy, the damaging storm that knocked out power and flooded parts of the East Coast in the midst of a U.S. presidential campaign, was third.

The next biggest trending searches globally were a pair of threes: the iPad 3 tablet from Apple Inc. and Diablo 3, a popular video game.

Also in the Top 10 were Kate Middleton, who made news with scandalous photos and a royal pregnancy; the 2012 Olympics in London and Amanda Todd, a Canadian teen who was found dead of an apparent suicide in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What do you meme?

Facebook and Yahoo's top trending ideas or phrases (popularly known as "memes") include:

- **YOLO.** It means "You Only Live Once"—used both sincerely and ironically.
- **Binders full of women.** Mitt Romney's awkward description of his search for women cabinet members.

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Rocknet Telecom Inc.
967 St. Laurent Blvd, Unit 3

U.S. fiscal cliff imperils energy, mining sectors

Canadian fallout. Failure to reach deal would hit some types of companies especially hard, observers say

A plunge by Washington over the so-called fiscal cliff would hit Canadian miners and energy companies particularly hard since a slowdown in the U.S. economy would also drag down prices for base metals and oil.

Paul Taylor, chief investment officer for fundamental equities at BMO Asset Management, said Wednesday it will be the cyclical sectors that will be most affected if U.S. lawmakers fail to reach a deal to avoid the automatic tax hikes and spending cuts set to kick in next year.

"We are very much dependent on energy and materials, which represent, of course, nearly 50 per cent of the Canadian equity market by market cap," Taylor said.

"And with slower U.S. — and read from that slower global economic activity — you would have to expect that the price of base metals and energy on which we depend so heavily would be affected negatively and they would certainly lose a bit." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumer concern

- A new poll by Sun Life Financial suggests 63 per cent of Canadians are concerned our economy will be hurt if a deal to avert the fiscal cliff is not reached.
- "Along with high debt levels and a slowing real-estate market in Canada, the fiscal cliff situation in the U.S. is giving Canadians another reason to worry about the Canadian economy," said Sadiq Adatia, chief investment officer of Sun Life Global Investments.

Turning the page on e-readers

A young girl looks at a Sony ebook at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October in Frankfurt, Germany. Sales of dedicated e-reading devices are in an "alarmingly precipitous decline" this year after five years of rapid growth, research firm IHS iSuppli says. Full-blown tablets with colour screens are behind the decline, the firm says. IHS expects shipments of e-readers to fall from 23.2 million last year to 14.1 million this year. The rapid rise and now rapid decline of e-readers is unusual even for the volatile consumer-electronics industry, says IHS analyst Jordan Selburn, but it's indicative of the broader trend of single-purpose devices like e-readers and cameras losing out to general-purpose ones like tablets and smartphones. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Ignition issues

Honda recalls 870,000 vehicles

Honda is recalling about 870,000 minivans and SUVs worldwide because they can roll away even though drivers have removed the keys from the ignition.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.55¢ (+0.15¢)

Natural gas: $3.40 US (-1¢)
Dow Jones: 13,245.45 (-2.99)

TSX 12,353.09 (+70.74)

OIL $86.77 US (+98¢)

GOLD $1,717.90 US (+$8.30)

Social media.

Facebook attempts to make privacy controls more user-friendly

Facebook is trying to make its privacy controls easier to find and understand in an effort to turn the world's largest social network into a more discreet place.

The fine-tuning announced Wednesday will include several revisions that will start rolling out to Facebook Inc.'s more than one billion users in the next few weeks.

The biggest change will be a new "privacy shortcuts" section that will appear as a tiny lock on the right-hand side at the top of people's news feeds. This feature offers a drop-down box where users will be able to get answers to common questions such as "Who can see my stuff?"

Other updates will include a tool that will enable individuals to review all the publicly available pictures identifying them on Facebook.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

* Offer valid on Friday December 14, 2012 only, from 6pm to midnight. Offer not valid in Quebec. While supplies last. No rain checks. Selection may vary by store. Not applicable on previous purchases. Not all products available online. See store for deta

Anti-corruption. Police detain Serbian retail tycoon

Serbia's billionaire retail tycoon and one of the Balkan country's most influential figures was detained Wednesday in what the nationalist government said is a major anti-corruption sweep.

Miroslav Miskovic, one of the richest people in impoverished Serbia, is the owner of Delta Holding company, which deals with retail, real estate, insurance and agriculture business in Serbia and the rest of the Balkans.

He was detained by police along with his son, Marko, and eight other people in connection with the privatization of several road construction and repair companies in 2005 during which the suspects allegedly "gained illegal profit" of about $39 million US, prosecutors said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU membership at stake

- Serbia's nationalist government has launched several anti-corruption probes since coming to power in June. Critics say they have been mostly aimed at political opponents and allies of the country's previous pro-Western leadership.
- But Serbia must fight graft, if it wants to fulfil its goal of becoming a member of the European Union.

Trains

Bill Gates ups ownership in CN

Bill Gates has increased his overall stake in Canadian National Railway Co. to about 12 per cent.

Cascade Investment LLC, a company owned by the billionaire founder of tech giant Microsoft, says it has acquired an additional 13,670 shares of Canada's largest railway for $1.25 million.

The investment company now owns a total of 43 million CN shares representing 10 per cent of the company. Gates controls an additional 1.98 per cent of CN stock through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a charitable trust. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airlines put the fun back in flying with cocktails

Air travel may be getting more stressful, but the drinks are getting tastier.
ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In-flight perks. Had to deal with lost baggage or delayed connection? At least you can have a mojito at 30,000 feet

Airlines have found a way to take the edge off the stress of flying and make a few extra bucks along the way: Fancy new cocktails, craft beers and elegant wines.

The drinks advertised in the back of in-flight magazines — or on sleek seatback touchscreens — are starting to resemble those served at nightclubs.

• Virgin America offers Grandma's Coffee, an iced cappuccino with Jack Daniels whiskey for $9 US. Its beer selection includes San Francisco-based 21st Amendment and Black Star from Whitefish, Mont. Both cost $7.

• US Airways has partnered with mixer company Stirrings to sell mojitos and cosmos for $8 each.

• Delta offers the Sky Breeze, which is vodka, Fresca and a splash of cranberry-apple juice over ice for $7. It also sells small-batch bourbon from Woodford Reserve for $7.

Flying isn't what it used to be. Long lines, ever-changing security rules and limited overhead bin space have all made travelling much more stressful.

It's no wonder many passengers are looking for a little escape. Airlines, which created much of this anxiety in the first place, are happy to oblige. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's simply a matter of finding a way to get people to spend money. They see people spending $12, $14, $15 or more for fancy martinis, cosmopolitans or other beverages on the ground."

Henry Harteveldt, a travel-industry analyst with Hudson Crossing

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SHIELDS UP! RED ALERT!

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Friends, Romulans, countrymen! Lend me your pointy ears. I come not to bury Star Trek (frankly, Voyager did that), but to praise it.

Star Trek: The Next Generation is on Netflix now, and I'm completely engaged. To my surprise and delight, many of my Facebook friends have independently made it their priority No. 1, and it's resulted in the sort of long, passionate comment threads usually only seen under shared photos of ultrasounds and/or Stephen Harper.

I've complained in this space before that too much modern pop culture is just the repackaging of ideas we've seen before. But I can't deny the movies I've been anticipating most lately: Bobcaygeon The Movie (documentary based on a rock ballad), Les Miserables (movie adaptation of a musical adaptation of a French musical adaptation of a novel), and Star Trek Into Darkness (sequel of a reboot of a movie version of a TV series).

TNG regeneration

Going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

I can get all snobby at Men in Black 3, but if it's John's Crap: The Sequel, then my objections mysteriously disappear. In truth, if they made a movie of The Wire, I'd probably show up in costume (rumpled suit with vomit stains).

So I apologize for my earlier complaints. Star Trek: Regurgitation is just fine by me.

I was the perfect age for the original run of TNG — 11 years old when it debuted as a juvenile imitation of the original series, and 17 when it was over, by then a Hugo Award-winning masterpiece beloved by virgins worldwide. So going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

In a world where people no longer meet in town halls and churches, some of us get our sense of community by discussing the legends of Vulcans or Orcs or hard-drinking ad execs. Whether that's a step forward or back I'll leave to you.

But what fun to get lost in the minutiae of a 24th century, where anything can happen except good roles for women. How wonderful to laugh at the stuff they got wrong (Picard's personal computer is amusingly thick) and got right (Picard and Riker discuss a European union). How satisfying to gauge a fellow Trekker's knowledge level by their recognition of "Make it so" (beginner), "THERE. ARE. FOUR. LIGHTS!" (intermediate), and "All Husnock — everywhere" (expert).

My excitement led me to decide that I'm going to watch every worthwhile Star Trek episode, which after several hours perusing reviews and ratings online I've determined is 30 episodes of the original, six episodes of the animated series, 54 episodes of TNG, 69 of DS9, 29 of Voyager and 25 of Enterprise. (I just hope the experience doesn't turn me into a nerd.)

It's good to boldly go where I've already been before.

Taking us out of here, again: The cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation.
2012 CBS STUDIOS INC HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Love is sweeter by the dozen

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

12/12/12 SWAK

Last triple-date to wed your mate

Many couples kissed during a mass wedding ceremony at the Peak in Hong Kong, on Wednesday. At least 700 couples were expected to get married on the date 12/12/12, the last such triple-date in this year in Hong Kong as they believe the date will bring them everlasting love. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When the clock strikes 12:12

Twelve-word vows say it all

KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Judge Donetta Ambrose, left, signals that there are five more minutes before she starts the wedding between Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Allen, centre, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Johnson in federal court in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Ambrose started their wedding at 12:12 p.m. at the couple's request, where they exchanged 12-word vows on 12/12/12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese numerology

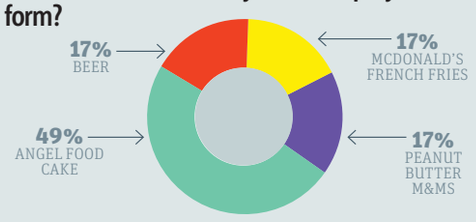
"One is considered a yang number, while two is considered a yin number. Combining the two can offer new couples balance."

Marketing firm Back Bar USA in a press release announcing its $1,212,120 Las Vegas wedding package that included the use of a private jet, watches and earrings for the wedding party, and dinner at a Michelin-rated restaurant.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Pizza Hut is making a pizza-scented perfume. What other foods would you like in spray-on form?



Twitter

@fwilson2: @LibbyDavies Ominous night for labour. Important to be there to support you, @alexboulerice and all 135 MPs who voted no. The fight is on.

@aylash16: I can probably rap the whole Kanye West Graduation album #honesthour

@Guydatri8: If freedom is short of weapons, we must compensate with willpower.

@DennisTweety: RT @theninjaoflove: The Revolution Will Not be Televised (But it Will be Tweeted) — Canada and its land is at stake

@iggsplode: @JoshYohe_Trib it is a tough Blueline indeed. Lots of top flight talent not on the team due to lockout.

metro

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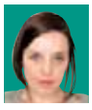
SCENE 2

Music amid mortgages

Catchy stuff. Rising from the ashes of a defunct band, Social Divide now makes music without the pressure



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

Social Divide release their debut EP, Water, this week. Darcy Bowman (bass), left, Jake Rupert (vocals/guitar), Claude Samson (drums), and Derek MacDonald (guitar). HANDOUT

Jake Rupert always considered himself to be a "campfire song sort of guy."

That is, until he got his dream guitar six years ago — a Gibson J-200 — and the songs started pouring out of him.

"When I got that guitar, I just loved playing it so much," he exclaims.

"Noodling around on it led to patterns in the music and I was thinking, 'Well, these are songs that are coming out of me. It's now time to start putting words to this.'"

Though he had always dabbled in music, it was the first time Rupert had put any real effort into songwriting.

He got a band together, recorded a demo and played some gigs around town.

But, as with many bands whose members are in their 30s and 40s, life got in the way and the group broke up.

"It was kind of disappointing because I thought we were getting somewhere, but there's the human dynamic that comes into it," Rupert explains.

"When everybody has their own life and career to attend to, I think it's hard to keep everybody together for long periods of time before life can interfere.

"There's kind of this romantic idea of jumping in a van and going across Canada to tour. But, when you're in your 40s and you have mortgages and things, it's tough to do that."

So last year, Rupert put together a new group, Social Divide.

With this band, he says, there is no pressure — just the love of the music.

"The creative process is great, but we have to be realistic about what we want to achieve and the timelines we can achieve them in. So, you get the music and the process out of it without the pressure of expectations to, quote-unquote, succeed."

The band is getting set to release its debut EP, Water, a blend of country, bluesy and funk tunes, and looks forward to whatever path it may lead them down.

"If you put too much pressure on it, it's almost never going to work.

"So we just let the creative process go and see where it takes us and I think it's taken us in some interesting directions."

EP release with The Dead Bees

- **When.** Friday at 9:30 p.m.
- **Where.** Elmdale House Tavern (1084 Wellington St. W.)
- **Price.** $10

Do you hear what we hear?

Weighing up this year's festive albums.
As usual, the latest holiday releases are a mixed bag, but Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Sufjan Stevens' version of Christmas is an alternative one. ALL IMAGES HANDOUT

A Different Kind of Christmas – Various artists

Naughty: You're probably not familiar with many of the artists on these 23 tracks. Audio Stepchild? Renzo Charlez? Freshwadda Brooks? Have all of these great hip-hop artists been hiding on the North Pole until now?

Nice: This compilation comes courtesy of Hoopla Worldwide/LRT/INgrooves Fontana ... all imprints we had also never heard of before now. But some of the participants have affiliations with Parliament Funkadelic and Nappy Roots. The beats here mostly have a G-Funk feel with little samples of carols thrown in and the rhymes are super positive. Check out 1st Blood and Buffalo Stille's Some Kentucky Bourbon on Christmas Eve and Da Product and J Bill's It Seems Like We Forgot for some of the most festive holiday hip-hop since Run DMC's Christmas in Hollis.

Silver & Gold: Songs for Christmas, Vols. 6-10 – Sufjan Stevens

Naughty: Is Sufjan Stevens trying to take up all our free time this season? Sure, this is a gorgeous collection of 58 holiday-ish tracks (we say "ish" because how is Prince's Alphabet Street a holiday song?). But keep in mind that Stevens recorded these songs over six years. Listeners may want to pace themselves too.

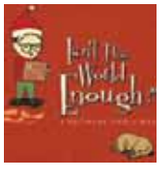
Nice: There are a few songs on here that are the sonic equivalent of sugar plums dancing in your head. Draw the curtains, plug in your tree and zone out to the beautifully textured 10-minute plus opuses Christmas Unicorn and The Child with the Star on His Head.

Cheers, It's Christmas – Blake Shelton

Naughty: His role as a coach on The Voice has earned Blake Shelton a new base of fans who wouldn't ordinarily like his brand of country music. That said, if you don't ordinarily like his brand of country music, you won't like this album.

Nice: Shelton is such a likable personality that this is highly tolerable stuff. Plus, he handpicked some of the most likable side-kicks to guide his sleigh, like Reba, Kelly Clarkson, his wife Miranda Lambert and the king of palatable Christmas charisma, Michael Bublé, who co-wrote one of the songs here. Basically, the cover pic of Shelton in front of the fireplace says it all: It's old-fashioned, steeped in tradition, comfortable and not exactly cool.

Isn't This World Enough? – Various Artists



Naughty: The problem with this post-record industry climate is that there aren't enough Scroogey label CEOs to say, "Yer holiday song stinks!" Therefore, this 14-song comp from the Nettwerk Music Group has a few stinkers from Ash Koley and Jay Brannan. Bah humbug!

Nice: The title track, by the Scottish six-piece Admiral Fallow, might not be the most obvious holiday song (sample lyric: "You don't need to hang your hat on belief in bumper stickers") but there's something classic about it that makes it malleable, the way that Put a Little Love In Your Heart kind of became a holiday staple after it was used in Scrooged. Also worth noting: This compilation kicks off with a rockin' Fun. tune!

The Grinch says ...

- **This Christmas – John Travolta and Olivia Newton John**

If this collection came out in 1980 then maybe there would be a reason for it to exist, but in 2012 there's no need for these 13 tracks. The forced smiles while sipping cocoa on the cover shows that their old chemistry is now gone. We don't like to be Grinchy, but this is the sonic equivalent of reindeer poop.

Holidays Rule – Various Artists

Naughty: Speaking of compilations that start with a song by Fun., the We Are Young trio have spread themselves too thin for the holidays. With their track, they take a Sleigh Ride down Broadway and make an ill-advised turn into '80s territory. Rufus Wainwright and Sharon Van Etten also deserve a lump of coal for their empty version of Baby, It's Cold Outside.

Nice: This one delivers the most bang for your buck. The Shins run McCartney's Wonderful Christmastime through a Beach Boys filter and turn it into something great. McCartney himself is on here too. Other great performances include Calexico, Eleanor Friedberger and Andrew Bird.

Merry Christmas, Baby – Rod Stewart

Naughty: Stewart exhumes the voice of Ella Fitzgerald for a duet of What Are You Doing New Year's Eve? Let's just hope there is no "live" performance, a la Virtual 2Pac.

Nice: Rod's light rock swing is actually contagious, and you may find yourself saying, "Hey, play that again!" about the original song that Stewart co-wrote, Red-Suited Super Man. Then you'll realize what you just said and lie that you were just kidding. Cee-Lo, Mary J. Blige, Bublé and Trombone Shorty also turn in notable cameos.

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Breaking down Rihanna's changing hairstyles

The many faces and styles of Rihanna. HANDOUT

Exclusive interview. Metro speaks to pop star's personal hair stylist about what goes into creating her public image

ANNA SOKOLOWSKI
scene@metronews.ca

Pop sensation Rihanna is just about as famous for her intense style changes as her incredible career in music.

The young Hollywood starlet, whose exotic beauty is inherited from the island of Barbados, has been present in the public eye for the past seven years, ever since her breakthrough hit Pon de Replay in 2005.

Rihanna's recent tour that went with the name 777 had the entire world talking yet again — the seven-day tour started from Los Angeles and finished off in New York with stops in Mexico City, Toronto, Stockholm, Paris, Berlin and London.

Apart from a strictly selected list of press guests and fans, Rihanna's little entourage included her right-hand man — her personal hair stylist Yusef Williams.

Stylin'

"We aim to create looks that Rihanna feels comfortable in."

Yusef Williams
Rihanna's stylist.

Metro received the exclusive opportunity to dive deeper into Rihanna's style secrets with Williams, who has quickly become one of America's most wanted hair specialists.

"My brain is always working when it comes to creating new looks," Williams declares.

The stylist admits that he always keeps Rihanna's unique taste and ideas in mind when putting together imaginative style creations for the artist.

When the two are apart and searching for inspiration separately, Rihanna often sends Williams inspirational pictures through her phone.

"We aim to create looks that Rihanna feels comfortable in, which makes my work so spontaneous. Actually, we pull a lot of inspiration from men's magazines," Williams reveals.

Throughout her career, Rihanna has changed the colour, cut and length of her luscious locks innumerable times.

Drastic changes take their toll and continuous travelling results in dryness even when you are an international celebrity.

Nevertheless, when the bombshell is on tour, there is no spare time for time-consuming treatments.

"Our basic hair care routine starts with tying Rihanna's hair down before she goes to bed. We moisturize both her scalp and hair with organic olive oil-based leave-in conditioners. This step is crucial and it (keeps) her hair healthy," Williams instructs.

Rihanna has gone from pixie crops and ballet buns to dreadlocks and asymmetric hairdos over the years. But what can we expect to see next?

The stylist claims that the superstar's future looks are impossible to plan ahead of time.

"Her current look is short on the sides, but it could be practically anything tomorrow. That's the beauty of Rihanna and that is why I love working with her," the stylist concludes.

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Newcomers to the Tolkien universe discuss their place among new class

The Hobbit. Martin Freeman and Richard Armitage talk about how Peter Jackson's crew was very welcoming to new cast

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

British actor Richard Armitage plays Dwarves' leader Thorin Oakenshield in the film The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In director Peter Jackson's eyes, Martin Freeman was always Bilbo Baggins. While Ian Holm does reprise his role as the older, wiser Bilbo in The Hobbit, there was something about the veteran of The Office and the BBC's Sherlock series that made Freeman an irresistible choice for this younger, more anxious version of Tolkien's most famous character.

"Martin is the only person that we ever wanted for that role and that was really before we met Martin," says Jackson. "We just felt he had qualities that would be perfect for Bilbo — that essential kind of fussy English, slightly repressed quality. We thought he'd be very good at playing that. He's a dramatic actor. He's not a comedian. But he's a dramatic actor who has a very rare comedic skill."

While not originally a fan of the books himself, Freeman was eager to join an already bonded cast and crew.

"My experience of Middle-earth was through the films which I think are still great pieces of work," Freeman says. "From my point of view of turning up and being involved with it, it was a pleasure to be with Pete. It was a pleasure to be with a crew that committed, to get to know actors I knew a little bit from home, but not very well who subsequently became friends … It was great. It had a way of not being intimidating."

Quoted

"In terms of coming into an existing franchise, we were just always made to feel very welcome, like we were coming into a family."

Richard Armitage
Talking about stepping into the Lord of the Rings production group.

Also joining the cast was British actor Richard Armitage, who takes on the character of Thorin, a would-be dwarf king out to avenge the deaths of his father and grandfather. Despite the fact that so many of the cast and crew from The Lord of the Rings series had returned for these three films, Armitage felt the loving embrace of a committed group of artists.

"In terms of coming into an existing franchise, we were just always made to feel very welcome, like we were coming into a family," he says.

"So many people returned that were working on the Rings trilogy. It was just very easy."

Easy in one sense, but quite daunting in another. With the cast committed to a year and a half of shooting, the actual filming process was no casual stroll through Rivendell.

"Working with Peter, the thing that I've realized is that just when you think you've given him everything you've got, he asks you for more and somehow you find it," says Armitage.

"My own limitations of myself, I've had to let those drop because there's always more to give."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

The year in celebrity divorces

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Yesterday we looked at the big celebrity engagements of 2012. (Aw, love!) So today we'll gaze at the years big celebrity divorces. (Boo, dead love!)

Katy Perry and Russell Brand
Announcement: Dec. 30 (so technically this occurred in 2011 but the fallout was in 2012. Work with me here, folks).
Length of marriage: 14 months
Reason: "She's young, successful and dedicated," Brand said of Perry and her career in an interview with Howard Stern in July. "(The reality is) you can't fully understand it until you do it. I was really into the idea of marriage and having children." Translation: The recovering alcoholic wanted to settle down; she wanted to party.
Contention level: Low. Instead of anger, Perry just seems embarrassed she was ever associated with the comedian. She recently hid under a table to avoid seeing him while she was having lunch with new beau John Mayer.

Heidi Klum and Seal
Announcement: Jan. 23
Length of marriage: 7 years
Reason: Klum was apparently disturbed about Seal's "inability to control his temper."
Contention level: High. The two are currently involved in a very bitter custody dispute over their four children and Klum's estimated $70 million fortune.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise
Announcement: June 29
Length of marriage: 5 years
Reason: Cruise was reportedly blindsided by Holmes' highly orchestrated divorce proceedings. One reason for the split? Us Weekly claims that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting.
Contention level: Medium. The divorce was fast and furious (by comparison, Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are still in negotiations). Cruise seems sad; Holmes ecstatic. And Suri is still well-dressed.

Amy Poehler and Will Arnett
Announcement: Sept. 6
Length of marriage: 9 years
Reason: Their romance "fizzled out," RadarOnline.com reported.
Contention level: Low. They are too adorable to be mad at one another.

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Lohan won't follow Max and The Wanted

Lindsay Lohan has put an end to her gallivanting with on-the-road British boy band The Wanted, cancelling plans to follow the group to London and then Dubai, according to E! News.

Some suspected the change of plans was caused by Lohan's legal troubles, but the starlet is allowed to leave the country while on probation. Perhaps it's because her recent infatuation with Wanted member Max George reportedly isn't all that serious. "All they're doing is hanging out," a source says.

Twitter

@KChenoweth
No one will see Paranormal Activity 4 with me.

@RealMichelleT
What would the Dowager Countess do?

@msleamichele
Another great day of work at #glee! Time to get some rest now! Another big day tomorrow! Xoxo

@rustyrockets
"@JonahHill: Ok so I've decided I'm going to get married soon, I'm just not sure to who yet" I'm free.

Florence Welch

Florence the peacemaker at recent concert

Florence + the Machine singer Florence Welch turned peacemaker at a recent concert in Scotland, halting the show when she spotted two fans quarreling in the front row, according to Us Weekly. "I can't have a fight in front of me while I'm singing this song! No fighting allowed," she said. "I don't know what's happening but I'd like it to stop. It doesn't matter whose fault it is." Others in the crowd weren't pleased with the interruption and had begun chuckling nervously, causing Welch to chide them as well: "Excuse me, all of you. Stop it," she said. "I'm sorry all of you if you're upset." Welch then hopped off stage and hugged one of the fighting girls who appeared to be crying.

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Bask in Rita's aura

Jay-Z's protege spills about her two-tone lip, her knack for nurturing her locks and her long-standing love for Lopez

ROMINA McGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

No one rocks a strong brow and bold lip quite like Rita Ora does. And so we felt compelled to pick her brain about her trademark look. In the process, Jay-Z's protege gave us a few tips on how to rock a two-tone red pout and the celebrity (it's J.Lo!) whose complexion she covets the most.

On her morning routine...
"In the day, it takes about 10 to 15 minutes (to put my makeup on). If I don't have to wear makeup, I don't. I don't mind being caught on camera bare-faced. And I think having healthy, glowing skin is really important. On off days, I'll wear bronzer and a lipstick, but that's it. A red lip and black liquid eyeliner would be my easiest look. It looks good on blondes — but this is all bleached! "

...and fancy, get-dressed-up, evening ritual
"If I have an event, I might stick some lashes on and maybe put on some golden, bronzy eye shadow, something to make my eyes stand out a bit more. But in the evening, it takes me probably about 25 minutes to do my makeup — if I'm doing it properly. Do you know what I'm doing right now? The other day, I wore a dress that had pink and red, so I made my top lip pink and my bottom lip red. That was quite cool. We invented that with my makeup artist. Or you can do bright red on the outside and dark red on the inside and blend it all together. The main thing is making your skin look flawless, like you have no makeup on."

She's not a natural blonde, but a natural beauty? No question. HANDOUT

Face the facts

"J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath?"
Rita Ora

Her skin care before bed
"I wash my face every night and use Crème de la Mer moisturizing soft cream as it makes my skin feel nice. But my skin isn't too bad actually."

The hair: to spray or not to spray
"(My hair) takes a lot of work. I used to have really long hair, but when I started dying it and using curling irons and stuff, it dried it out. I'd literally have a hair spray in my bag, which isn't good. Now I use clip-ins so that I don't damage my own hair. I also do a lot of treatments — a lot of oils and masks. But your hair will only absorb so much oil. You also have to eat good. So I eat things like fish for the oils."

Lipstick or lip gloss?
"I love a strong lip. I would see women like Marilyn Monroe and Gwen Stefani with red lips and they never looked like they gave a s—t about what anyone had to say about them. They had such confidence. They were just hot and sexy and not afraid to be different. When I put red lipstick on, I want to be like them."

About that tan
(I feel the most beautiful) when I've got a tan!

Her beauty icons
"Kim Kardashian has good makeup. But J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath? My mum's really good with makeup. She always has a different look. She used to say, 'Don't do a lip and an eye. Pick one.' I follow her advice ... sometimes."

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@Jeanne_Beker: Prepping for launch of TheLoop.ca this Thursday! With @Killer_Kurves @BigHipsRedLips @FlawsofCouture

@Jeanne_Beker: My mom sure does love her chocolate... Ready to start a sweet 93rd year!

@Jeanne_Beker: YUMMY!! In the #CTV lobby with model hunks Oren @choosethefro +@JosephCannata @TheMarilynShow

@Jeanne_Beker: With the cool+sexy @jianghomeshi @ArleneDickinson Xmas bash!

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Halifax

Sam Rich

Student and stylist at Reginald magazine

Age: 21

What she's wearing
Kelly Wearstler coat, House of Harlow sunglasses, Chanel bag, vintage Chanel boots, J Brand jeans, Autumn cashmere sweater.

Her inspiration
"I take inspiration from blogs like Atlantic Pacific and Man Repeller, from my friends, and my mom is my ultimate fashion inspiration."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: MEGHAN TANSEY WHITTON, FASHIONEASTHALIFAX.COM

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Baby shrimp and crab meat make a delicious duo in delicate fried cakes

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

I love the traditional fried crab cakes served in restaurants, but are they ever high in calories and fat! Here I've used a combination of baby shrimp and crabmeat and sautéed them in a very small amount of oil. The low-fat mayonnaise sauce goes beautifully with these delicate cakes.

They end up at 99 calories and 5.8 grams of fat per serving.

1. To make the cakes, combine the crabmeat, shrimp, mayonnaise, lemon juice, green onion, cilantro, bread crumbs, egg, garlic, ginger and mustard in a food processor. Finely chop until the mixture just comes together. Don't purée. Alternatively, chop by hand.

2. Form into 6 cakes.

3. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil. Add the vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Sauté the cakes for about 5 minutes per side, or just until browned and hot.

4. To make the sauce, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, sesame oil and soy sauce in a serving bowl. Whisk until smooth.

5. Garnish the cakes with the diced red pepper and serve the sauce alongside. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

Cakes
- 6 oz chopped crabmeat (or surimi)
- 4 oz baby shrimp (cooked)
- 3 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/2 cup dried unseasoned bread crumbs
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1/2 tsp crushed fresh ginger
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp vegetable oil

Sauce
- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp low-fat sour cream
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp low-sodium soy sauce

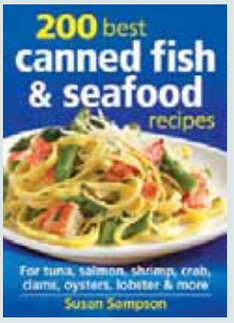
Garnish
- 1/4 cup finely diced red bell pepper

Asian Crab and Shrimp Cakes

This recipe serves six. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Cookbook of the Week

Seafood made easy



Love seafood but don't have the time to get creative with cooking it? Enter 200 Best Canned Fish & Seafood Recipes by Susan Sampson.

The book is full of traditional and updated recipes, new creations and canned twists on classic fish dishes. The recipes feature canned seafood that can be found in virtually any supermarket across Canada: tuna, crab, salmon, mackerel, cod, sardines, clams, oysters, mussels and more.

Master dishes such as Salad Nicoise, Fish Tacos, Lemon Pepper-Shrimp Pasta, Lobster Mushroom Bisque, Crab Cakes, Tuna and Spinach Risotto and more. **METRO**

Grapefruit Coriander Mussels. Add a punch of citrus

Like it or not, winter is here, and making healthy diet choices from morning 'til night is crucial to warding off aches and sore throats. These delicious mussels boast a good dose of grapefruit juice.

1. In large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Cook onion, garlic, half of the coriander and cumin for about 3 minutes or until softened. Add juice, red pepper and jalapeno; bring to the boil.

2. Stir in mussels. Cover and cook for about 10 minutes or until mussels are open.

3. Sprinkle with remaining coriander before serving.

NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

2 portions
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) chopped fresh coriander
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin
- 1 cup (250 ml) Florida grapefruit juice
- Half red bell pepper, diced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 1 bag (about 2 lbs/1 kg) fresh mussels, rinsed

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SPECIAL INFORMATION FEATURE

Keep calm and carry on

End of days? The end of the world is on tap, literally, with Unibroue's La Fin Du Monde

JEFF O'REILLY
For Metro

"It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine."
– REM

"And you tell me
Over and over and over again, my friend
Ah, you don't believe
We're on the eve
Of destruction."
– PF Sloan

Regardless of your age and musical tastes, thoughts of The Final Countdown have been on our minds for quite sometime — whether it be Mother Nature's force raging unpredictable havoc at will, rogue meteors, alien invaders, the seemingly never-ending crisis in the Middle East, Y2K, the zombie apocalypse, nuclear holocaust, Bieber Fever, the Book of Revelation, etc., etc., those who think that "the end is near" will eventually have to be right.

So, with Dec. 21 already on your calendar, what your plans are largely relies on how you interpret the prognostication around the end of the Mayan calendar. Some may see this date as doomsday — a foregone conclusion that our fates have been sealed and our destinies determined. Many others will look at next Friday as a combination of a once-in-a-lifetime drinking occasion, a distraction from the holidays and another convenient reason to continue putting off Christmas shopping.

I fall squarely in the second grouping of amusement, distraction and procrastination ... and not just because eight days gives me very little time to tackle my bucket list. Personally, I find it amusing that anyone would trust a time-keeping system developed in 3114 BC with a "long count" of 5,126 years as a sign of our finale.

There is, however, excellent reason to keep calm and carry on as a new form of liquid courage has arrived in Ottawa just in the nick of time, and it may be the only beer fitting for the "end of the world party to end all end of the world parties," so to speak.

Unibroue, based in Chambly, Que., has produced Canada's most celebrated beer globally (a staggering eight very rare platinum, 68 gold, 17 silver and 12 bronze brewing awards), a Belgian-inspired triple-styled Golden Ale for the last 18 years in "La Fin Du Monde," which literally translates to "the end of the world."

I haven't had the pleasure of enjoying a three- to five-year aged bottle of this ambrosial nectar, which allows the bottle conditioning to fully mature the deep character of the beer, since I never seem to be able to wait that long to crack one open. Apparently, I don't have that kind of time at my disposal anymore, so I was absolutely thrilled to hear that it would finally be available on tap for the first time ever in honour of our impending doom.

Unibroue's La Fin Du Monde (nine per cent alcohol by volume on tap) pours a translucent gold with generous, snow-white foam cap into a stemmed tulip glass. There are inviting aromas of citric and tropical fruit, zest, floral hops, and caramel malts.

Magnificent, rich flavours of mango/tangerine, lemon, orange zest, Belgian candi sugar, bready malts, honey with hints of coriander and peppery spices work so incredibly well together that this beer is almost otherworldly.

Luxuriously smooth, ridiculously drinkable and impeccably balanced, this beer is deceivingly and deliciously dangerous as it hides its assertive alcohol content extremely well with a slightly sticky and dry mouth feel, and a soft souring finish.

This beer is simply divine and would be perfect to ring in a new year, so regardless of the outcome of the Mayan calendar brouhaha, next Friday night we're gonna party like it's 1999.

Jana serves up La Fin Du Monde, available exclusively on tap at D'Arcy McGee's locations in Ottawa, including on Sparks Street, where its Last Supper/End Of The World Party features music by local legend Marc Charron. JEFF O'REILLY/FOR METRO

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Cake creations keep kids busy

The new boss. Next time your kids are bored, give them some Play-Doh and a cake challenge

SHARON DEVELLIS
YummyMummyClub.ca

Tony Danza used to be "the boss." Or there's Bruce Springsteen.

Nowadays, there's a new boss in town. It's Buddy Valastro, the uber-talented cake creator/decorator/owner of Carlo's Bakery, and thanks to a little network called TLC, he is known to the world as the Cake Boss.

We don't watch a lot of television at our house but there are a few shows we watch together as a family: America's Funniest Videos, Antiques Roadshow, Wipe Out, and, of course, Cake Boss.

The boys are addicted and love watching Valastro create cakes that defy gravity (and sometimes don't). But they especially love the spin-off series — The Next Great Baker — where, for eight episodes, Valastro had a competition to find a new baker for Carlo's bakery. Each week Valastro threw new challenges at the 10 contestants as they vied for a chance to win $50,000 and work at the famous bakery.

This has spurred a new activity for my kids.

Cake Boss: The Play-Doh Edition

I wish I could take credit for this, but my husband came up with the idea when the kids brought out their mounds of Play-Doh after dinner one night. Essentially, one of us is "The Boss" and we tell both of our sons what kind of cake to make.

Example: We would like a cake that represents Lego. It needs to be layered and able to feed 20 to 30 people. You have one hour.

Then we set the timer and let the boys create. Bonus: My husband and I have one hour to do other things while they are at the table stretching their Play-Doh and imaginations. Once I was able to dye my hair while they made Valentine's Day-inspired cakes. And just the other day I managed to vacuum the entire house, including under the couches. Which, ironically, is where I found half of their missing Lego pieces. I wonder how many pieces our central vacuum system can suck up before it actually explodes.

So the next time your kids are bored and need something to do, grab some Play-Doh and go show them who is really the boss.

Once you have assigned your kids with a cake challenge and set the timer, you will have one free hour to yourself. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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The Ottawa Sport & Social Club (OSSC) is a sport league, class, event, and tournament provider for adults who want to get active, meet new people, and have fun. Our tag line says it all - as we are truly Recess For Adults!

Launched in 2003, our club offers a variety of co-ed recreational sports and events throughout the year for anyone 19 years of age and above.

OSSC's twist is that the social side to sport is just as important as the game itself. We partner with The Royal Oak so members can meet up after their games and enjoy free food! It gives teams a chance to socialize, meet others, and continue the fun. We are also partnered with other local businesses where members can take advantage of amazing benefits and deals.

Ability is not important, as all leagues are open to anyone, though there are higher skilled leagues available to those who are ambitious. The goal is to allow people to have fun, meet new people, and get yourself active. You can join any OSSC league as an individual, with friends, or as a full team. If you are not in to team sports, we offer classes including Yoga, Boot Camp, and Core Kickboxing.

With more than 16 different offerings, including Dodgeball, Floor Hockey, Court Volleyball, Basketball, and Curling, our growing club gets over 8,700 Ottawan's out playing every week at sport fields and indoor facilities year-round - 6 days per week.

If you are interested in participating in any of our Winter sports leagues that we offer, register now! The registration deadline is January 3rd, 2013. For more information, visit OSSC.ca or call our office at 613.565.TEAM (8326).

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Christmas card clutter solutions

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

If you are the popular type then you probably get lots of Christmas cards sent to you each holiday season.

One of the most asked questions I get during the holidays is what to do with the cards and how to creatively display them.

I remember as a kid my Mom would string them up across our window in the living room. She'd poke them into the edges of painting and mirror frames; basically ridding them of tabletops in order to make room for trays of hard candy and nuts.

I've seen cards lined up on mantels, window ledges and credenzas, stuck to the fridge door and draped on a ribbon around door frames.

For a family home that might look charmingly chaotic, it's important to create order with decor, and greeting cards are no exception.

As a designer type, I am always conscious of displaying things around my home that add to my decor — especially during the holidays. Here's a few ways that inspire me to proudly put those warm wishes on display.

Jolly Reindeer Photo Holder

At almost three-feet tall, I'd stand this hand-painted fellow in my front foyer as a greeter to guests when they arrive. $40, pier1.ca.

Card Keeper

Got keepsake cards? Store them away neatly (it's also a good way to remember who sent you cards from year to year). $12, crateandbarrel.com.

Holiday Card Holder

Organize 60 cards horizontally on a hallway wall or vertically beside the Christmas tree. $65, potterybarn.com.

Idea: lay your holiday greeting cards in a decorative tray and display on a coffee table. Allow guests to sift through them as desired.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Greeting Card Etiquette

- Display your cards into common groups: work related, family and friends.
- At the end of the season, gather all cards and store them with holiday decorations for next year. You'll then have an auto-list of people to send cards to.
- Up-cycle last year's extra-beautiful cards and use the front plackets as instant name tags for gifts. Just make sure there is no writing on the inside front.
- If someone sends you a card and its too late in the season to return one to them, send them a "thank you for thinking of me card" in the new year.
- Always include your return address on the envelope and sign the card with your first and last name. This ensures the receiver knows who it came from.

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DIY DECOR TIP: UPCYCLED HOLIDAY BULBS

STEVEN AND CHRIS HOLIDAY EPISODES ARE NOW AIRING THROUGH DEC. 24, MONDAY TO FRIDAY AT 2 P.M. THEIR ROSTER OF EXPERTS DELIVER IDEAS AND ADVICE ON TOPICS INCLUDING HOME DECOR, FOOD AND ENTERTAINING, HEALTH AND FITNESS AND MORE.

It happens every year: You untangle your holiday lights only to find that half aren't working. Don't toss 'em out quite yet; upcycle those burnt out bulbs into a fabulously festive centerpiece!

Directions

1. Decant various shades of glitter into separate bowls.
2. Using a small artist's brush, apply glue to the entire glass portion of each bulb.
3. Dip bulb in one of the bowls of glitter and roll around, ensuring that glue is completely covered with glitter.
4. Repeat steps two and three with remaining bulbs.
5. Allow bulbs to fully dry separately before displaying together in a large decorative bowl on a bed of fake snow.

Materials

- Holiday light bulbs
- Various shades of glitter, divided
- White glue
- Artist's brush
- Large Decorative bowl
- Fake snow

Don't just throw away those burnt-out Christmas lights. SUBMITTED

NHL

Lockout talks still stagnant as mediators return

The latest round of NHL labour talks ended with the two sides in different rooms from each other.

The players' association and league negotiators met separately Wednesday with federal mediators in suburban New Jersey, holding discussions that didn't appear to move the sides any closer to a deal to saving the hockey season.

There was hope going into Wednesday that negotiations could get back on track to the point they were last Thursday before talks fell apart.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top players

Former NHLers honoured with Order of Hockey

Paul Henderson, Dave King and Mark Messier were named to the Order of Hockey in Canada on Wednesday.

The 2013 class will be honoured by Hockey Canada in April at a ceremony in Ottawa during the 2013 IIHF women's world hockey championship.

They will join the inaugural class inducted last spring that included Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Jean Beliveau, Cassie Campbell-Pascall and Gordon Renwick. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mark Messier scored 1,887 points in 1,756 games over 25 seasons.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Cut deep: Roster trim looms at junior camp

World juniors. Top teenagers running out of time to make impressions with final selections expected Thursday evening

Canadian goalies Laurent Brossoit and Jake Paterson chat following an exhibition game against the University of Alberta Golden Bears on Wednesday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There will be tears. There will be anger. There will be disappointment.

It won't be easy, but Team Canada coach Steve Spott will whittle his junior roster to 23 players. The final cuts — players who have always been the best on their teams — are expected Thursday night.

Don Hay, coach of the Vancouver Giants and a two-time Team Canada world junior coach, doesn't envy Spott's position.

"You see tears. You see disappointment. You see anger. You see all the things that go with human emotions," said Hay, who coached the entry last year and in 1995. "You obviously feel for that young man, going through all those different feelings and then (having to) face the media. He's got to compose himself fairly quickly before he goes out and speaks.

"It's a tough 10 or 15 minutes for everybody involved."

For those who remain, there's a team photo Friday, then a flight Saturday to Finland for exhibition games prior to the puck dropping on Boxing Day for the world junior hockey championship in Russia.

Those who don't make the roster will be whisked off to the airport for flights back to their respective teams. Few of the hopefuls have ever been cut by any team before.

Defenceman Mathew Dumba missed out last year.

"It sucked," he said. "It's a terrible experience. I got cut and I didn't fulfil my dream."

Spott is putting his own mark on how things are done. For one thing, the cuts are coming in the evening, not the morning. For years, the deed was done via 6 a.m. phone calls.

"It's not the most enjoyable thing in the world," said defenceman Jesse Blacker, now with the AHL's Toronto Marlies, who was cut from the 2011 team. "You can't really sleep. They called me at 6 o'clock to let me know that I had been cut, that I wasn't making the team. It's disappointing."

Blacker doesn't think the timing will leave players any less nervous, though.

"They're still going to be nervous in camp throughout the day," said Blacker. "The main goal is to play throughout the day without the nerves. Go out and show them what you've got, do what you can do. Don't leave yourself doubting that you gave it all you could."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I got away from my game last time. I was trying to prove to everyone how my defensive game had evolved.... I got away from my offensive side, which is why I got invited."

Kitchener Rangers defenceman Ryan Murphy, who has twice been cut at world junior camp.

First round of cuts

The Canadian junior men's hockey team released five players from its selection camp Wednesday.

- Defencemen Adam Pelech and Derrick Pouliot and forwards Francis Beauvillier, Sean Monahan and Tyler Graovac were cut, dropping the number of players competing for 23 spots on the team to 32.
- Four goalies, 10 defencemen and 18 forwards remain. Nine more hopefuls are expected to be released Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	5	.762	—
Miami	14	5	.737	1
Atlanta	12	6	.667	21/2
Chicago	11	9	.550	41/2
Philadelphia	12	9	.571	4
Brooklyn	11	9	.550	41/2
Boston	11	9	.550	41/2
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	5
Indiana	10	11	.476	6
Orlando	8	12	.400	71/2
Charlotte	7	13	.350	81/2
Detroit	7	17	.292	101/2
Cleveland	5	17	.227	111/2
Toronto	4	18	.182	121/2
Washington	3	15	.167	111/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	1/2
Memphis	14	4	.778	2
L.A. Clippers	15	6	.714	21/2
Golden State	14	7	.667	31/2
Utah	12	10	.545	6
Dallas	11	10	.524	61/2
Denver	11	11	.500	7
Minnesota	9	9	.500	7
Houston	9	11	.450	8
Portland	9	12	.429	81/2
L.A. Lakers	9	13	.409	9
Sacramento	7	13	.350	10
Phoenix	7	15	.318	11
New Orleans	5	15	.250	12

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Wednesday's results
Brooklyn at **Toronto**
Cleveland at Indiana
Atlanta at Orlando
Golden State at Miami
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte
Chicago at Philadelphia
Dallas at Boston
Sacramento at Milwaukee
Washington at Houston
New Orleans at Oklahoma City
Denver at Minnesota
Memphis at Phoenix
San Antonio at Utah
Tuesday's results
Cleveland 100 L.A. Lakers 94
New York 100 Brooklyn 97
Denver 101 Detroit 94
Washington 77 New Orleans 70
L.A. Clippers 94 Chicago 89
Thursday's games
All Times Eastern
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New York, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
Golden State at Orlando, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Memphis at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

NBA SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	22	215	167	643	29.2
Anthony, NYK	19	180	119	527	27.7
Durant, Okl	21	181	171	566	27.0
James, Mia	19	190	73	479	25.2
Harden, Hou	19	140	151	469	24.7
Westbrook, Okl	21	162	94	451	21.5
Aldridge, Por	20	166	87	419	21.0
Mayo, Dal	21	153	69	436	20.8
Curry, GoS	21	144	75	421	20.0
Pierce, Bos	20	122	108	384	19.2
Gay, Mem	18	130	59	342	19.0
Parker, SA	20	153	63	377	18.9
Lee, GoS	21	162	71	395	18.8
Ellis, Mil	19	130	83	356	18.7
DeRozan, Tor	22	153	90	406	18.5
Lillard, Por	21	133	74	387	18.4
Howard, LAL	22	143	118	405	18.4
Anderson, NO	20	139	22	367	18.4
Bosh, Mia	19	125	95	348	18.3
Griffin, LAC	21	157	66	381	18.1
Holiday, Phi	21	149	58	378	18.0
Deng, Chi	20	135	67	356	17.8
Walker, Cha	20	128	77	354	17.7
Duncan, SA	21	148	74	372	17.7
Randolph, Mem	18	125	66	316	17.6
Crawford, LAC	21	121	84	367	17.5

Not including last night's games

SOCCER

ENGLAND

FA CUP
SECOND ROUND
Wednesday's result
Mansfield Town 2, Lincoln City 1
Oxford United vs. Accrington Stanley, ppd.

LEAGUE CUP
QUARTER-FINAL
Wednesday's result
Swansea 1, Middlesbrough 0

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE
Wednesday's result
Celtic vs. Dundee United, ppd.

FA CUP
FOURTH ROUND
Wednesday's result
Dumbarton vs. Hamilton Academical, ppd.
Arbroath F.C. 0, Celtic 1
Cowdenbeath vs. St. Johnstone, ppd.

FIFA CLUB WORLD CUP
SEMIFINALS
At Toyota, Japan
Wednesday's result
Corinthians (Brazil) 1, Al Ahly (Egypt) 0
FIFTH-PLACE PLAYOFF
At Toyota, Japan
Wednesday's result
Sanfrecce Hiroshima (Japan) 3, Ulsan Hyundai (South Korea) 2

FRANCE

LIGUE 1
Wednesday's result
Ajaccio 2, Reims 0
Brest 1, Montpellier 2
Evian 2, Troyes 0
Lorient 2, Sochaux 0
1, Nancy 1
Bastia vs. Marseille

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Worcester	24	12	9	1	2	66	72	27
Providence	22	12	8	0	2	53	61	26
Portland	24	12	10	1	1	74	79	26
Manchester	24	11	10	2	1	68	61	25
St. Johns	26	11	14	0	1	59	75	23

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	22	14	4	1	3	79	47	32
Bridgeport	24	11	11	1	1	73	81	24
Connecticut	24	11	11	2	0	71	83	24
Adirondack	23	10	12	1	0	59	69	21
Albany	20	7	8	0	5	44	53	19

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	23	14	6	1	2	84	67	31
Binghamton	20	13	5	1	1	64	48	28
W-B/Scranton	22	13	7	1	1	65	55	28
Hershey	26	13	12	1	0	70	71	27
Norfolk	22	10	12	0	0	63	68	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	24	14	4	3	3	63	48	34
Toronto	23	13	9	0	1	76	65	27
Lake Erie	25	12	11	1	1	74	78	26
Rochester	22	11	9	2	0	72	66	24
Hamilton	21	9	10	1	1	43	64	20

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	22	13	7	1	1	74	62	28
Rockford	25	13	11	0	1	81	76	27
Chicago	22	10	9	2	1	58	66	23
Milwaukee	23	10	10	2	1	64	70	23
Peoria	24	9	11	2	2	57	82	22

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	25	14	9	0	2	82	71	30
Houston	23	13	7	1	2	76	64	29
Texas Stars	23	12	8	2	1	58	62	27
Oklahoma City	23	11	9	1	2	73	70	25
San Antonio	25	10	12	0	3	66	75	23

Wednesday's results
Hershey 4 St. Johns 0
Connecticut 2 Worcester 1
W-B/Scranton at Albany
Binghamton at Syracuse
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
Rochester at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Hamilton at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Friday's games
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Manchester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Albany at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Houston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Binghamton at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Joe Blanton and LHP Sean Burnett on two-year contracts.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Scott Elarton on a minor league contract.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Hector Lopez on a minor league contract.
TEXAS RANGERS — Claimed C Eli Whiteside off waivers from Toronto. Agreed to terms with INF/OF Brandon Snyder on a minor league contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
CHICAGO CUBS — Claimed RHP Sandy Rosario off waivers from Boston.
COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Mike McClendon and RHP Logan Kensing on minor league contracts.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with RHP Jason Grilli on a two-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Traded OF/INF Skip Schumaker to the L.A. Dodgers for INF Jake Lemmerman.
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with OF Travis Buck, RHP Sean O'Sullivan, RHP Jason Ray, RHP Daniel Stange, INF Gregorio Petit, C Rene Rivera and C Eddy Rodriguez on minor league contracts.

NBA
NBA — Suspended Sacramento F DeMarcus Cousins one game for striking Dallas F O.J. Mayo in the groin area during Monday's game.
DETROIT PISTONS — Assigned F Khris Middleton and G Kim English to Fort Wayne (NBADL).

NFL
NFL — Fined Minnesota P Chris Kluwe $5,250 for wearing a message on his uniform promoting Ray Guy for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed QB Kevin Kolb on injured reserve. Signed OL Mike Gibson.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed RB Zach Brown to the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Released WT Lee Ziemba. Placed S Haruki Nakamura on injured reserve. Signed DB Anderson Russell from the practice squad and DB Kamaal McIlwain to the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DT Amobi Okoye to a one-year contract.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Released TE Chase Ford and DB Reggie Jones from the practice squad. Placed DT Josh Brent on the reserve/non-football illness list. Signed DT Brian Schaefering. Signed DB Micah Pellerin to the practice squad.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed DT Corey Williams on injured reserve. Signed DT Andre Fluellen. Released DE Kendrick Adams from the practice squad. Signed DT Jimmy Saddler-McQueen to the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed RB Donald Brown and FB Robert Hughes on injured reserve. Released RB Alvester Alexander from the practice squad. Signed G Robert Griffin, RB Mewelde Moore and RB Deji Karim. Signed RB Davin Meggett to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Re-signed WR Deion Branch. Signed WR Tony Logan to the practice squad.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Released T Fenuki Tupou.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Released C Paul Fenaroli from the practice squad. Signed T Levy Adcock to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Released RB Kahlil Bell.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed DT Mike Patterson on the reserve/non-football illness list. Signed FB/TE Emil Igwenagu from the practice squad and DT Ronnie Cameron to the practice squad.
ST. LOUIS RAMS — Released DE Mason Brodine from the practice squad. Signed WR Raymond Radway to the practice squad.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Placed DE Vaughn Martin and S Darrell Stuckey on injured reserve. Re-signed RB Curtis Brinkley. Signed LB Gary Guyton. Released WR Kashif Moore from the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed LB Eric Bakhtiari to a two-year contract.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released LB Joe Holland from the practice squad. Signed CB James Rogers to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed RB Collin Mooney to the practice squad.

CFL
MONTREAL ALOUETTES — Named Pat Meyers offensive coordinator.

NHL
EDMONTON OILERS — Reassigned RW Cameron Abney from Oklahoma City (AHL) to Stockton (ECHL).

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	10	3	0	.769	472	274
N.Y. Jets	6	7	0	.462	245	306
Miami	5	8	0	.385	240	276
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	289	352

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Houston	11	2	0	.846	365	263
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	292	329
Tennessee	4	9	0	.308	271	386
Jacksonville	2	11	0	.154	216	359

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	331	273
Pittsburgh	7	6	0	.538	278	264
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	321	280
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	259	272

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	10	3	0	.769	375	257
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	292	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	248	402
Kansas City	2	11	0	.154	195	352

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	8	5	0	.615	373	270
Washington	7	6	0	.538	343	329
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	300	314
Philadelphia	4	9	0	.308	240	341

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	337	259
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	354	308
New Orleans	5	8	0	.385	348	379
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	265	312

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	4	0	.692	323	279
Chicago	8	5	0	.615	308	219
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	283	286
Detroit	4	9	0	.308	320	342

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	3	1	.731	316	184
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	300	202
St. Louis	6	6	1	.500	236	279
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	186	292

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 14
Monday's result
New England 42 Houston 14
Sunday's results
St. Louis 15 Buffalo 12
Dallas 20 Cincinnati 19
Washington 31 Baltimore 28
San Diego 34 Pittsburgh 24
Cleveland 30 Kansas City 7
N.Y. Jets 17 Jacksonville 10
Philadelphia 23 Tampa Bay 21
Indianapolis 27 Tennessee 23
Minnesota 21 Chicago 14
Carolina 30 Atlanta 20
San Francisco 27 Miami 13
N.Y. Giants 52 New Orleans 27
Seattle 58 Arizona 0
Green Bay 27 Detroit 20

WEEK 15
Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Washington at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Miami, 1 p.m.
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Detroit at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at New England, 8:20 p.m.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Focus on what you are good at and forget the rest. If you play to your strengths, you will soon be on the road to fame and fortune. Stop listening to what everyone else is saying and do only what motivates you.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Chances are you will have a flash of insight today that reveals how you can earn big money in the not too distant future. Don't forget though that the future depends a lot on what you do right now, so get busy.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Today's new moon is sure to bring changes in one or more important relationships. Whether they are the kind of changes you enjoy remains to be seen but they are certainly changes that are needed, so don't fight them.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The more you do now, while you are in the mood to work, the less you will have to do later when you are not. Just remember that you don't have to do something simply because everyone else is doing it.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A new moon in the most creative area of your chart gives you the kind of confidence you need to move mountains. Both in your personal life and at work you are capable of great things, so don't sell your talents short.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Sometimes it is smart to let your rivals win and this could be one of those occasions. If it gives them the impression that you are losing your grip, it will make it easier for you to win the battles that count!

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you meet today could become more than just a friend, so get up and get out into the world. If a stranger catches your eye, follow it up with a smile and a chat. One thing leads to another.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You need to come to a decision today about a money matter and the planets will make it easy for you. There is really only one option on the table that is worth pursuing, so commit to it and make it pay.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A new moon in your birth sign means you will find it easy to get your way over the next 24 hours. Does that fill your head with all sorts of outrageous ideas? It should! There are no limits (for you).

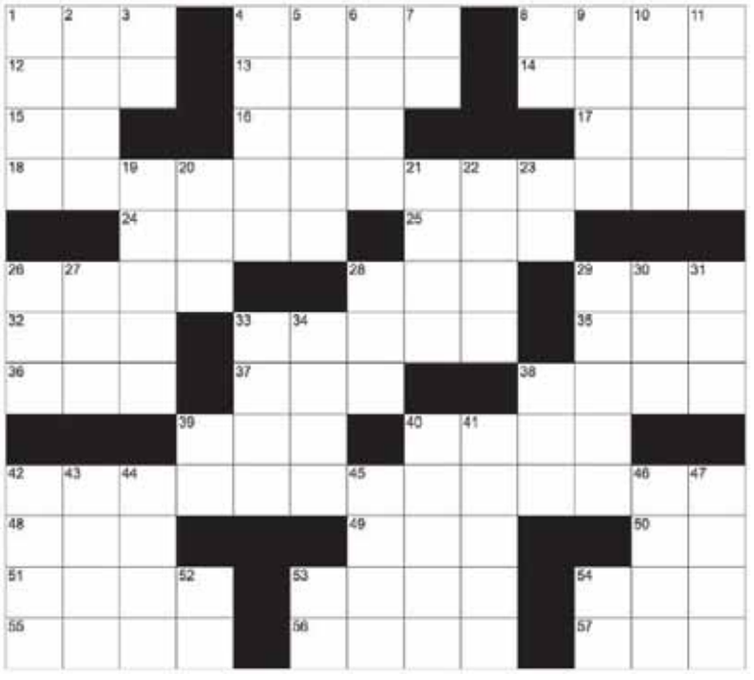
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
How and why did you allow yourself to get worked up about something so trivial? Whatever the reason, you must now stand back from the situation and see it for what it is: a minor inconvenience, nothing more.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will need to choose between one group of friends and another today. Your time is limited and you can only do justice to one set of commitments, so choose wisely. You can make it up to your other friends later.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't get so carried away with your plans and big ideas that you overlook the little things on which they depend. Remember: genius is 10 per cent inspiration and 90 per cent perspiration – yes, even for a Pisces. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

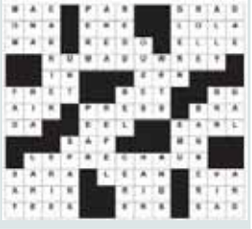
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Nightmare street
4. Ruse
8. Asian nurse
12. Cocoon
13. Comic/actress Tomlin
14. Ward of Once and Again
15. Musical group: — Vogue
16. American Music Awards (abbr.)
17. Refusals
18. 1970's Dick Van Patten series (3 words)
24. Toward sunrise
25. Sanford and —
26. Planet nearest but one to earth
28. — Paulo, Brazil
29. Coffee container
32. Aspire
33. Repeat over
35. Oath affirmation (2 words)
36. Speech hesitation
37. Runner
38. The — Griffith Show
39. Coupe or convertible
40. Send forth
42. Beatles hit song (4 words)
48. Stout
49. Boathouse item
50. Medical drama which starred George Clooney
51. Emily of New —
53. Small branch
54. Form of address
55. Hang
56. Model MacPherson
57. Capone and Capp

Down
1. Fencing sword
2. Burt Reynolds ex.
3. Marcus Welby, —
4. Some shoes
5. Margin
6. Woe is me!
7. — Wife and Kids
8. – The World Turn
9. Restaurant offering
10. Like a bump on – – (2 words)
11. Jumble
19. Bacteria
20. This Hour — 22 Minutes
21. Actor Morales of NYPD Blue
22. Lunch time for many
23. "Strangers – a Train"
26. Screen siren West
27. "— America"
28. Droop
29. Mottled bean
30. The — Couple
31. Christmas trinket
33. Type of horse
34. Wise one
38. Be indisposed
39. Hartford state.
40. High-tech message
41. Unite
42. Sleep under the stars
43. Salve plant
44. Inert gas
45. Wail
46. Bridal accessory
47. Goofs
52. Fargo state
53. — Diem
54. Peru's continent (abbr.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		8	2		4	6		
	2		7		6		5	
6								8
		5	4	2	1	9		
		3	9	5	8	4		
2								6
	3		5		2		9	
		4	3		7	1		

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	7	8	6	1	3	2	9
6	9	1	3	4	2	5	8	7
2	3	8	9	5	7	1	4	6
4	1	2	5	7	3	9	6	8
3	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	2
8	7	9	1	2	6	4	3	5
7	6	5	2	3	4	8	9	1
9	2	3	7	1	8	6	5	4
1	8	4	6	9	5	2	7	3

Today 3°/-2° Variable
Friday 3°/-10° Variable
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Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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Offer(s) available on new 2013 models purchased through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who purchase an eligible vehicle by January 2, 2013. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. (QUE): Taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires are excluded. (Rest of Canada): Includes destination, delivery and fees. Taxes, PPSA and dealer fees of up to $599 are excluded. ^ Limited-time offer available on all new 2011/2012/2013 vehicles through participating dealers to qualified retail customers until January 2, 2013. Offers are subject to change without notice. Some conditions apply. See dealer for details. MasterCard cards are issued by Citibank pursuant to a license by MasterCard International Incorporated. ® MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. ◊ No payments for 90 days is available on select new 2012 and 2013 models financed through Mitsubishi Motor Sales of Canada subvented financing programs on approved credit through participating dealers to qualified retail customers until January 2, 2013. Interest charges (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days after purchaser signs contract for a participating vehicle. After the first 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract. See participating retailers for complete details. ‡ $2,500 in no-charge extra features applies to 2013 Lancer 10th Anniversary Edition for vehicles purchased up to January 2, 2013. Based on dealer inventory. See your dealer for details. ◊ 0% purchase financing available through Bank of Montreal for up to 48 months on new 2013 10th Anniversary Lancer models. (QUE): Excludes taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires. (Rest of Canada): Includes up to $1,450 in freight, $250 in PDI, $100 in air tax, up to $30 in EHF. Excludes $15 duty on new tires, taxes, PPSA, registration, insurance, licensing, administration, up to $599 in other dealer fees and any additional government fees. * Best backed claim does not cover Lancer Evolution, Lancer Ralliart or i-MiEV. ® MITSUBISHI MOTORS, BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD are trade-marks of Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. and are used under license. ** Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-mot ors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Not all customers will qualify.

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OR

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OR

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